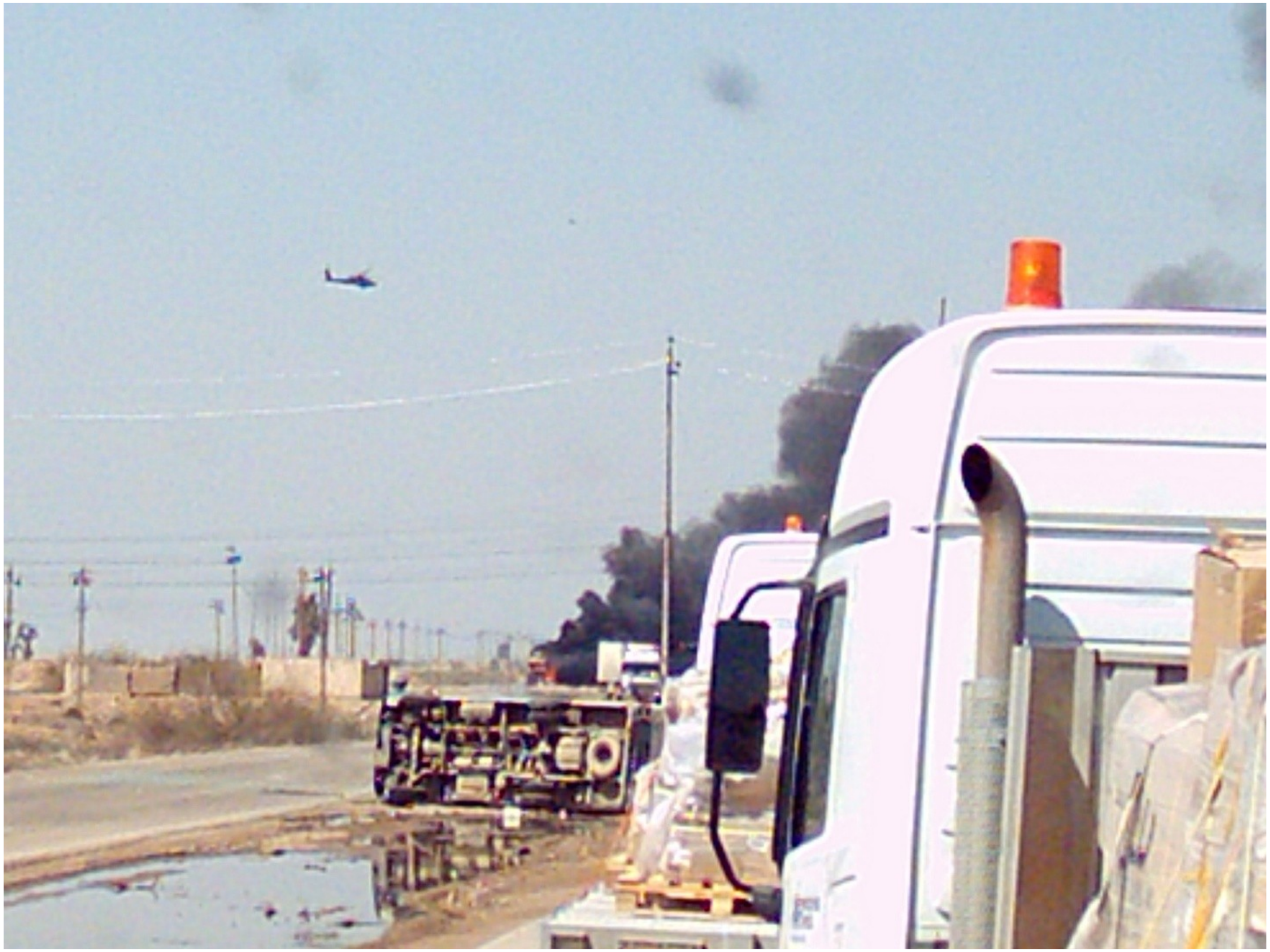
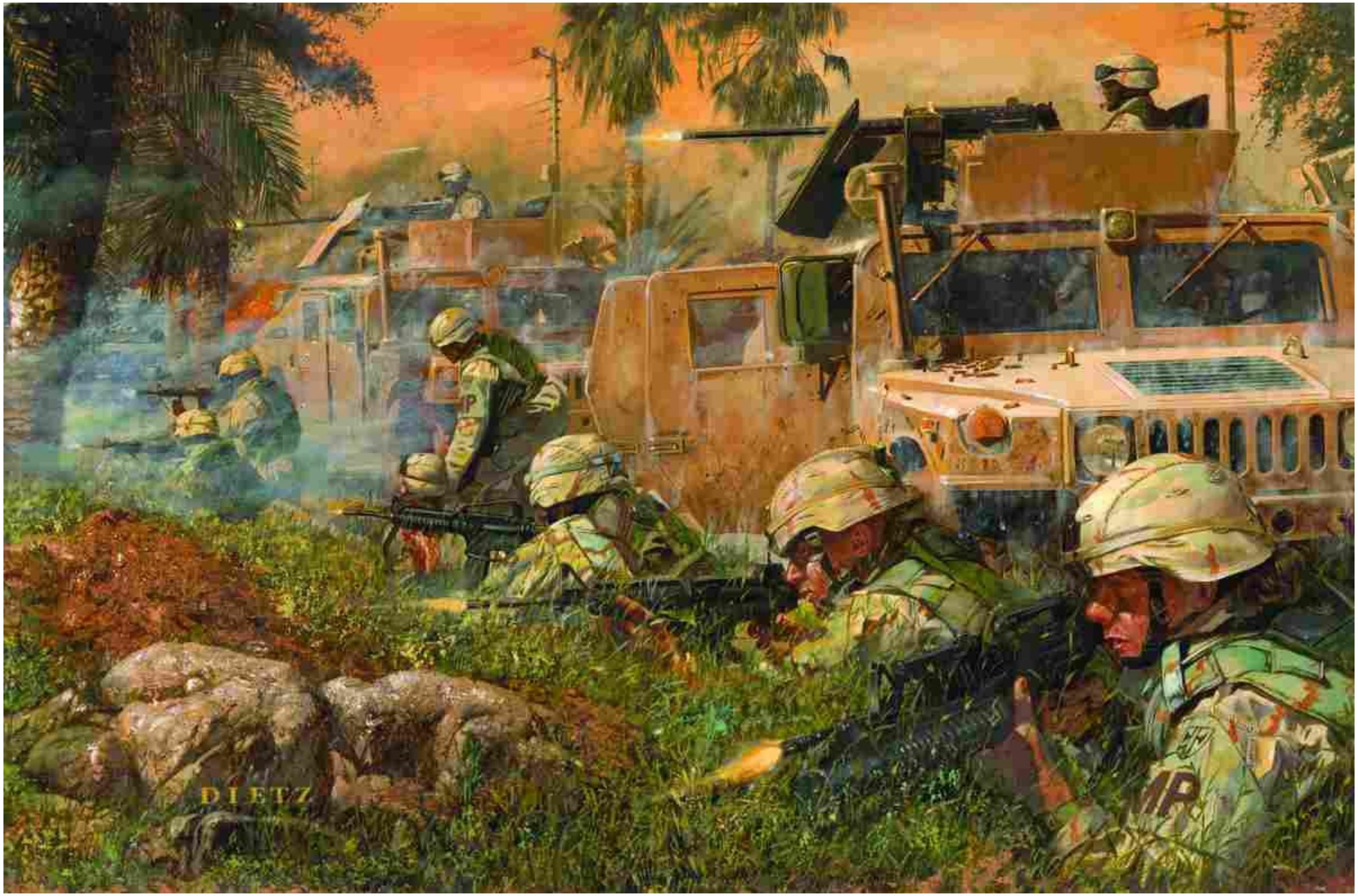
Palm Sunday Ambush

20 March 2005



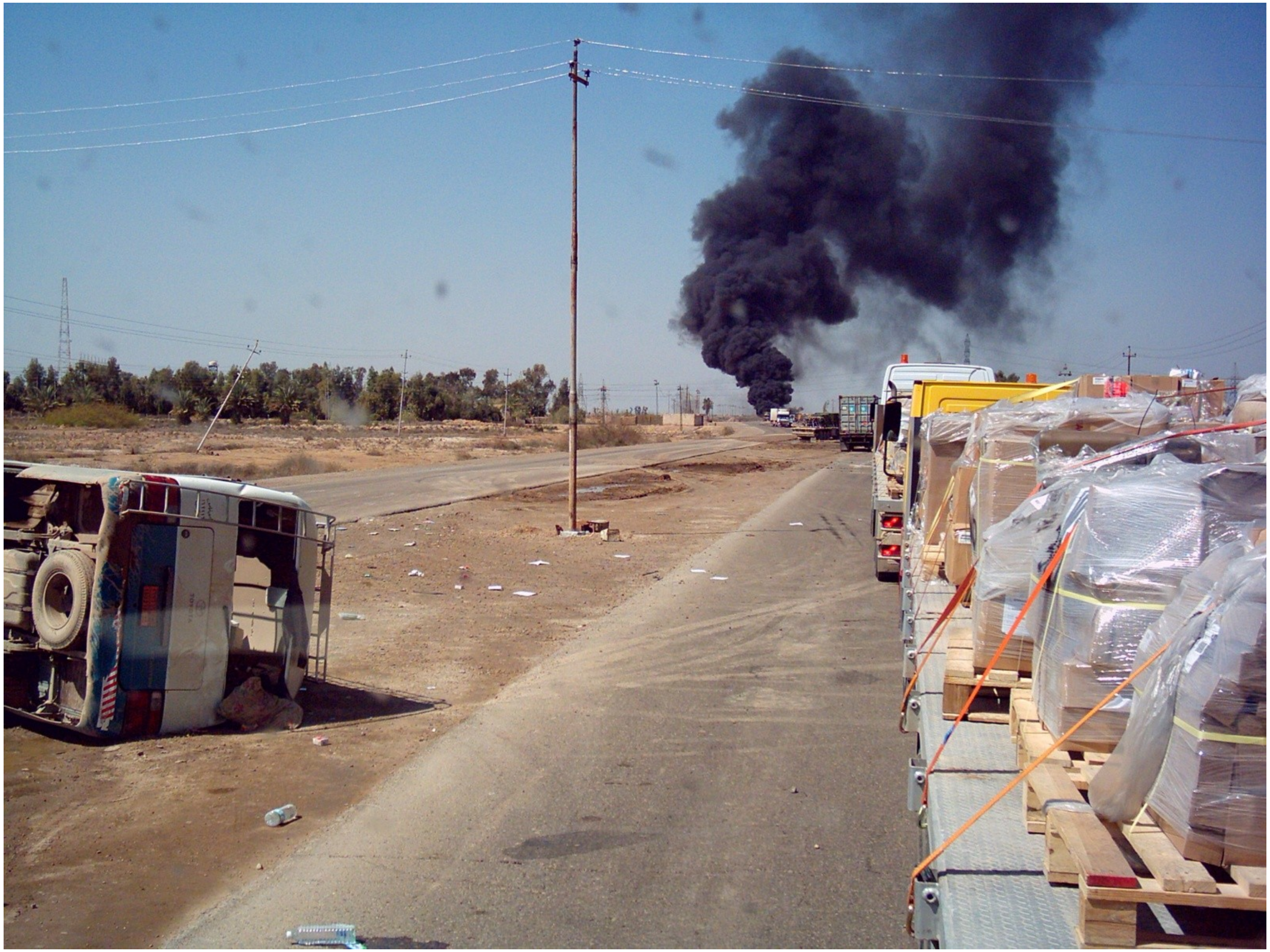
aka

Battle of Salman Pak



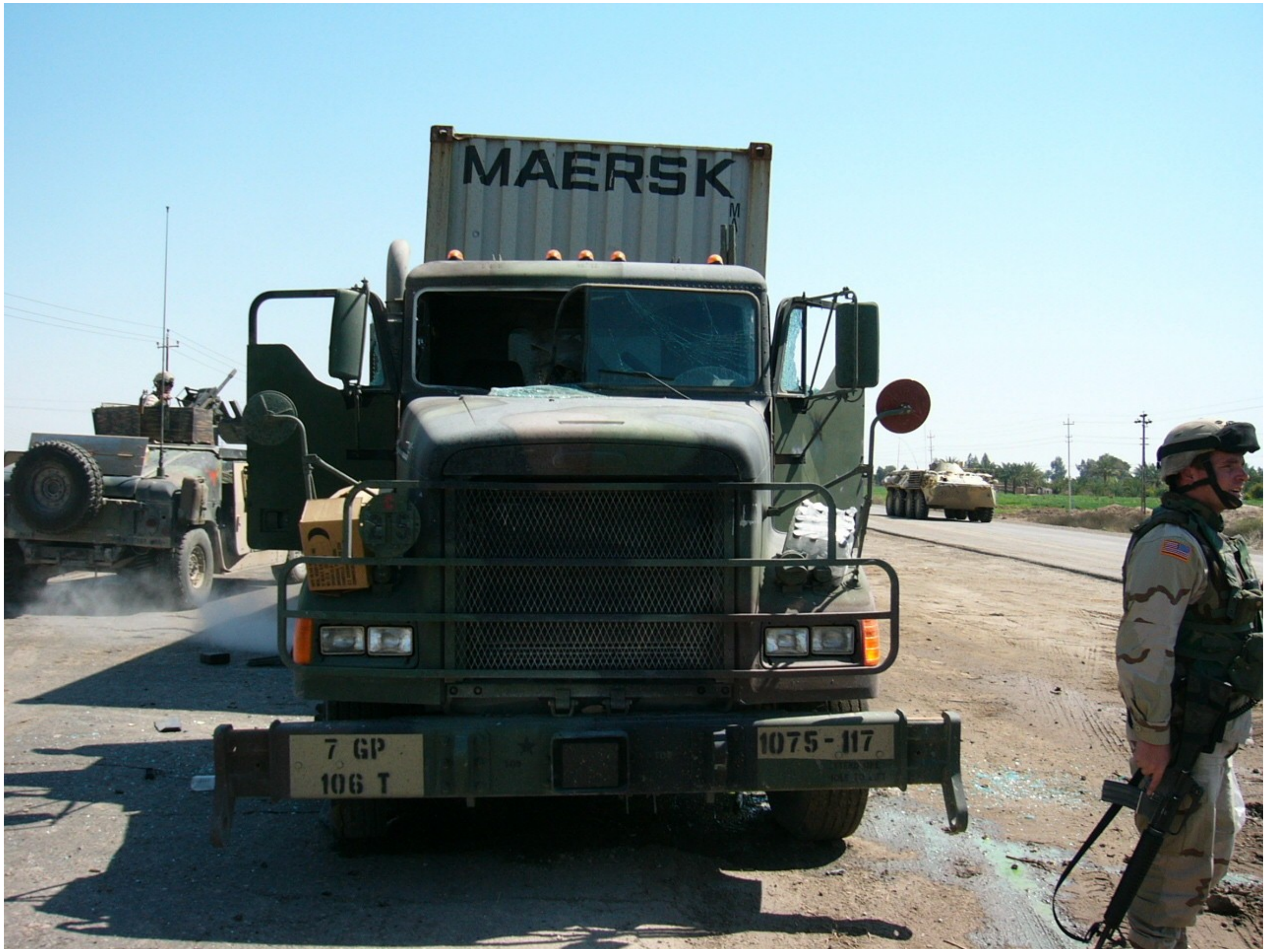
aka

Battle of Bismarck



1075th Medium Truck

M915


MAERSK
7 GP
106 T
1075 - 117

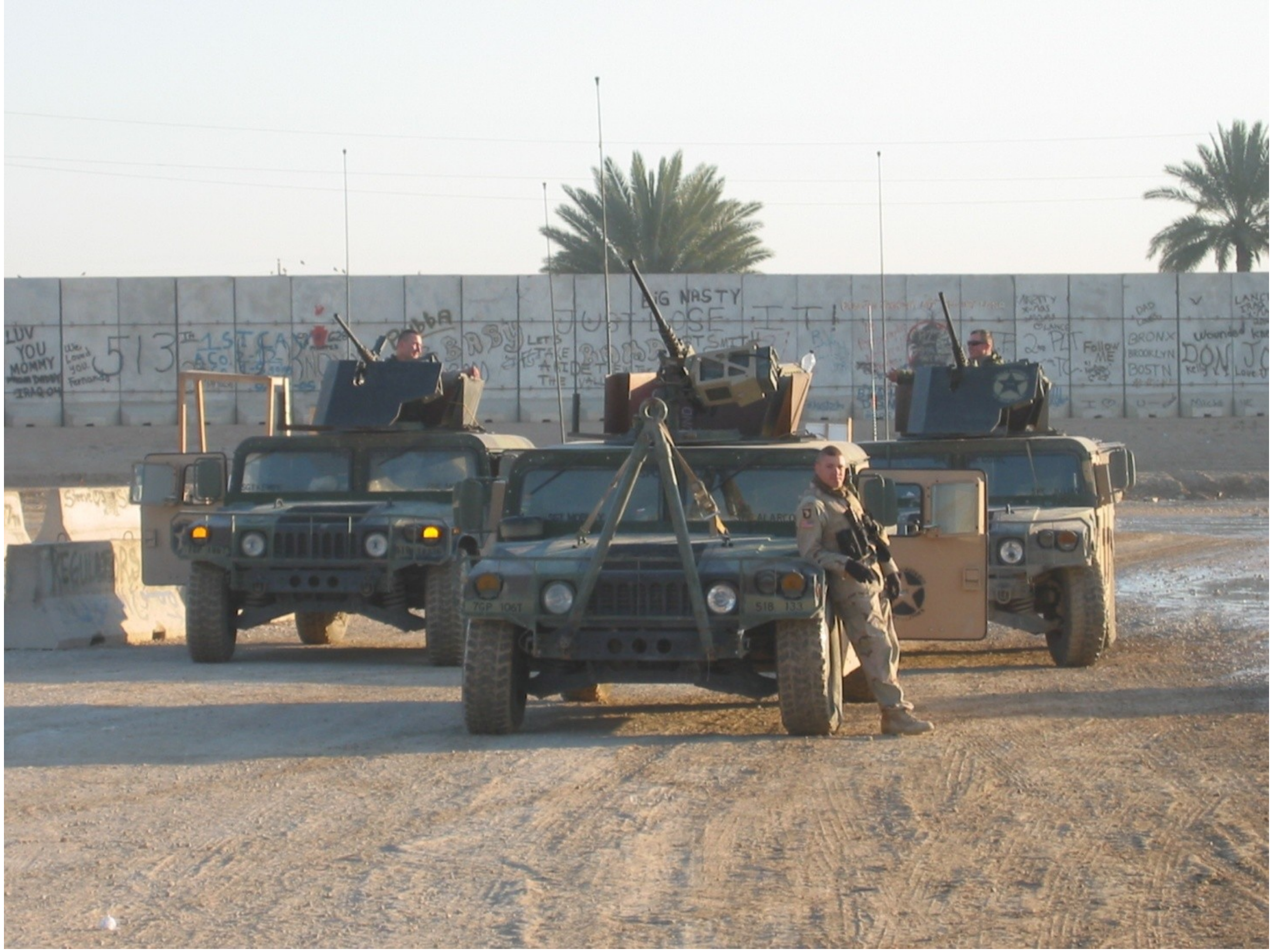
“Heavy Lift” Contract

“White Trucks”

“Heavy Lift” Contract Drivers

518th Gun Truck Company

Level 2 HMMWV Gun Trucks Escorts



623rd FA (Stallion 33)

Escorting AAFES Convoy

617th MP Company (Raven 42)

Shadowing AAFES Convoy

MILITARY POLICE

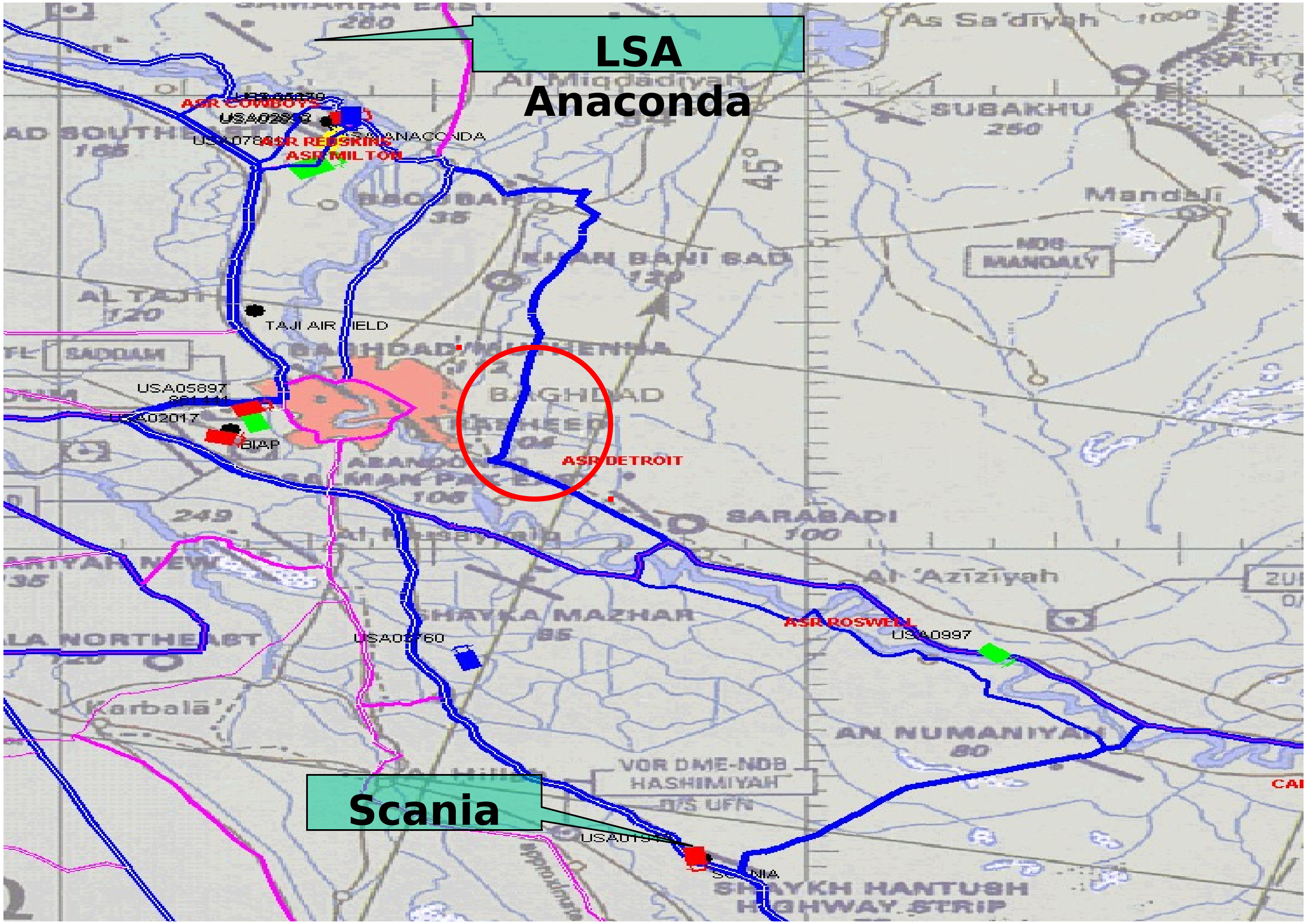
Enemy Situation

Estimated forty to fifty insurgents set up a complex ambush to cause US casualties with the possible intent to capture US Forces. The ambush included:

  - Heavy small arms fire from hasty positions
    - Armor-piercing rounds and sniper weapons augmented attack
  - An IED placed in the road median
  - Road obstacles
    - A SUV blocked road
    - Median contained a mud ditch which fixed convoy
  - Accurate indirect RPG fire, to include the use of the OG7V, with direct hits to trucks
  - A ground assault by 10-15 insurgents
  - Insurgents captured were carrying handcuffs

- Enemy Losses
  - 26 killed in ambush
  - 7 wounded and 1 unwounded insurgent captured
  - US Forces found 6 RPGs, 16 Rockets, 15 Machine Guns, 22 Assault Rifles, more than 2,900 rounds and 40 hand grenades

The Route and Location of Kill Zone

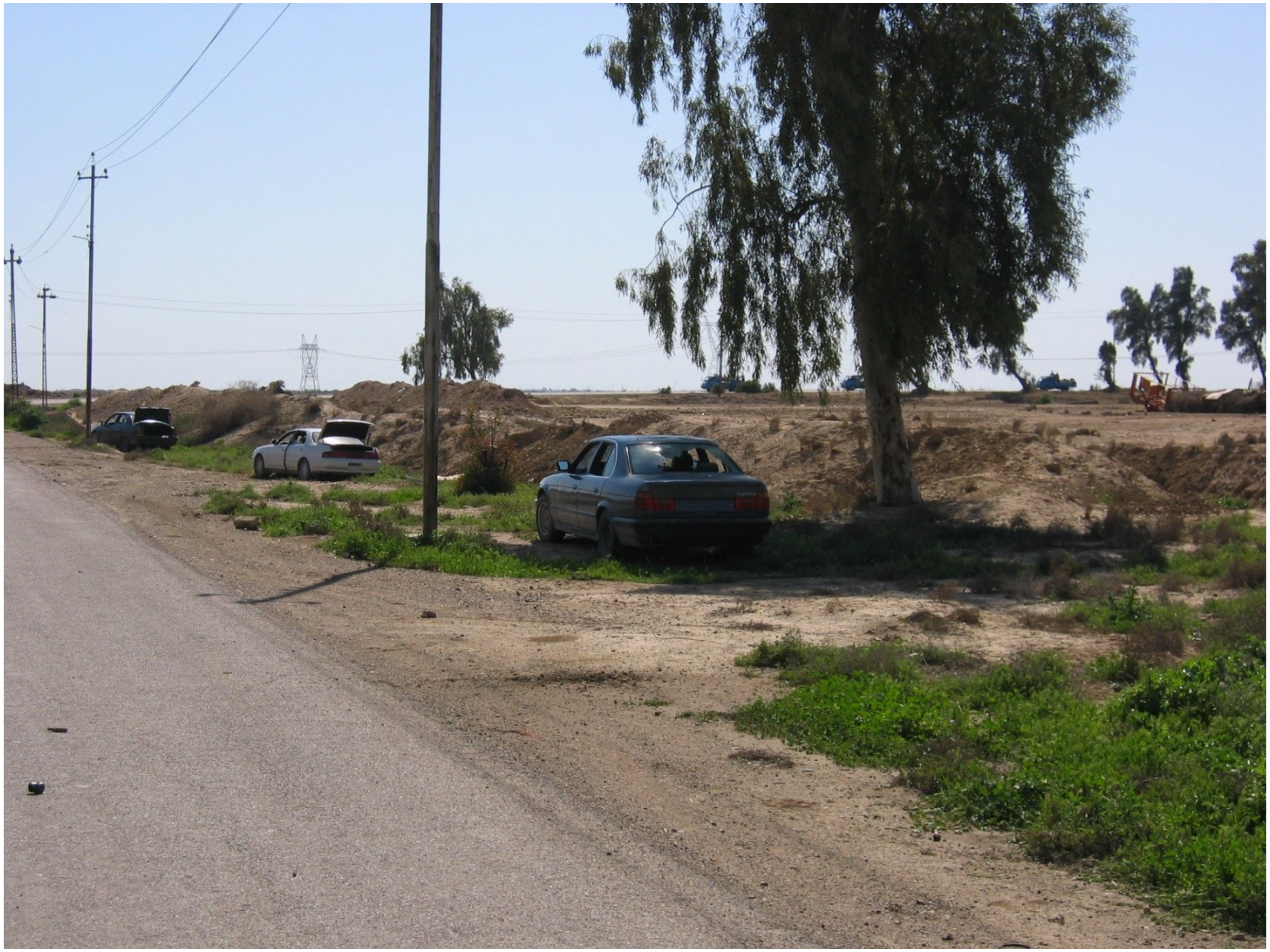


LSA Anaconda

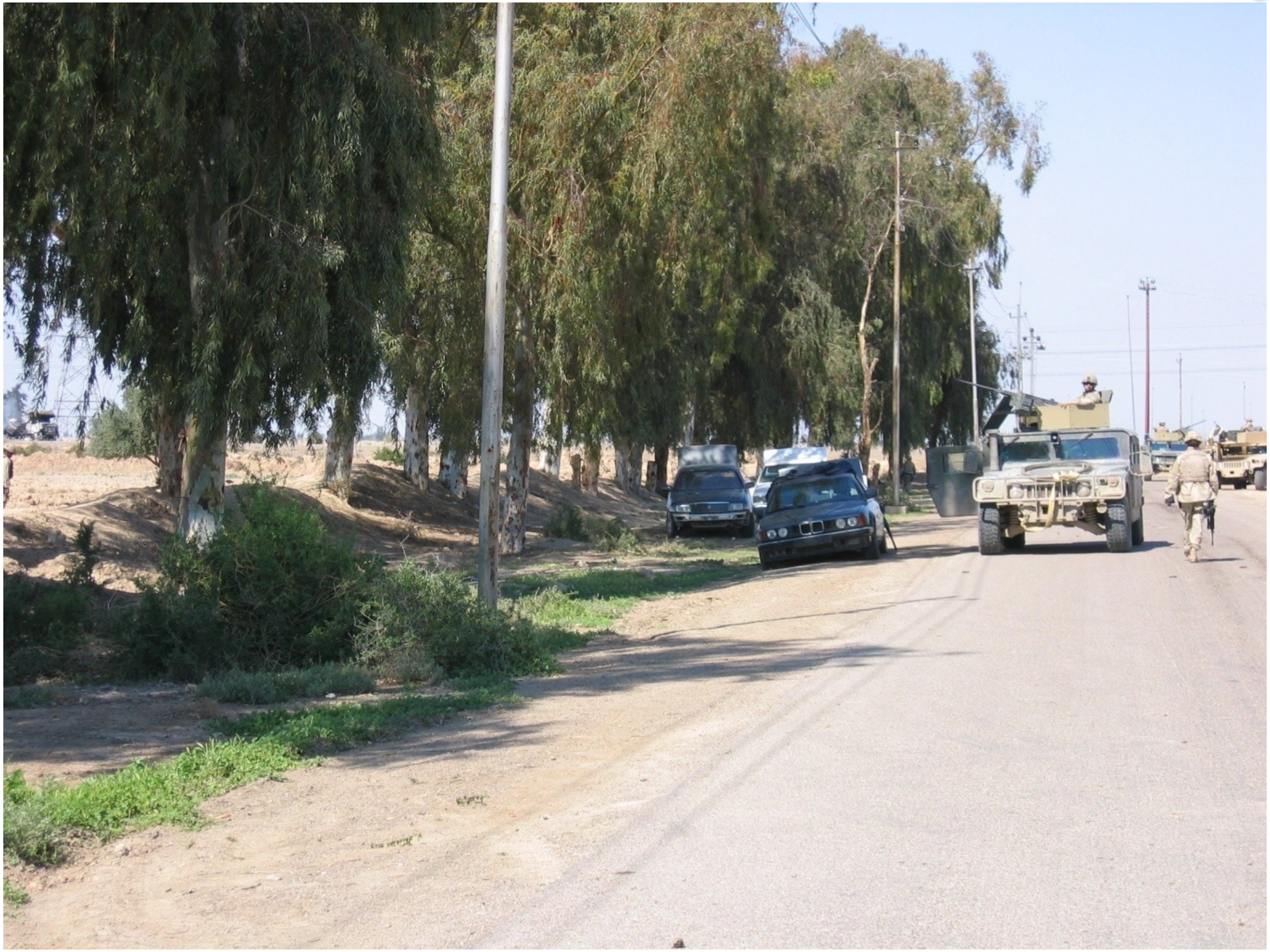
Scania

SAMARRA EAST
280
As Sa'diyah
Al Miqdadiyah
ASR COWBOYS
USA02852
ANACONDA
ASR REDSKINS
ASR MILTON
AD SOUTHEAST
165
SUBAKHU
250
BALAD
35
Mandali
KHAN BANI SAD
130
MOB MANDALY
AL TAJI
120
TAJI AIR FIELD
SADDAM
BAGHDAD
RASHEED
USA05897
USA02017
BIAP
ASR DETROIT
SALMAN PAK EAST
108
249
SARABADI
100
Al Musayyib
Al 'Aziziyah
SHAYKA MAZHAR
85
ASR ROSWELL
USA0997
LA NORTHEAST
120
USA01760
Karbala'
AN NUMANIYAH
80
VOR DME-NDB HASHIMIYAH
SCANIA
SHAYKH HANTUSH HIGHWAY STRIP

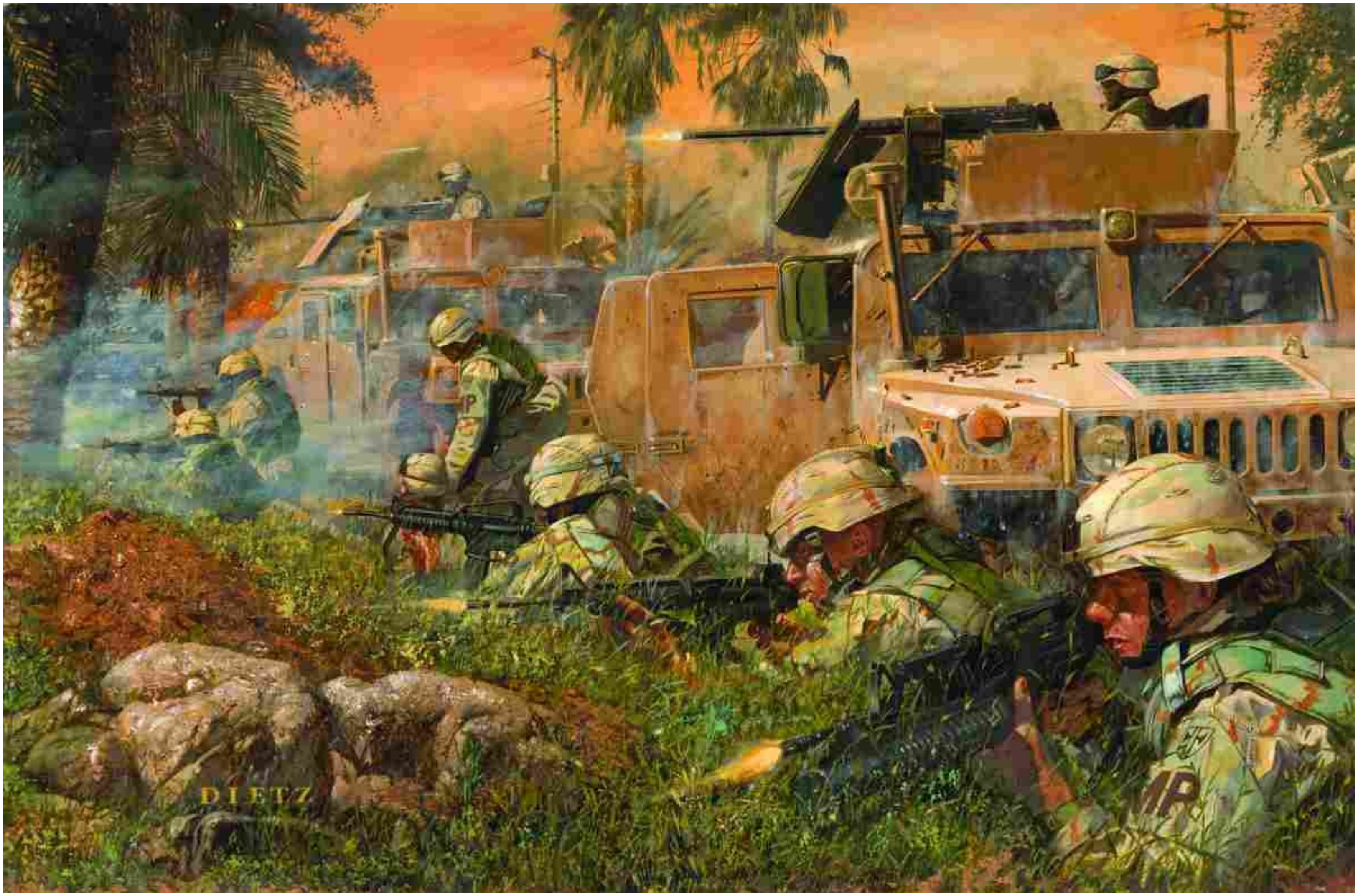
617th MPs Had Turned Down Access Road

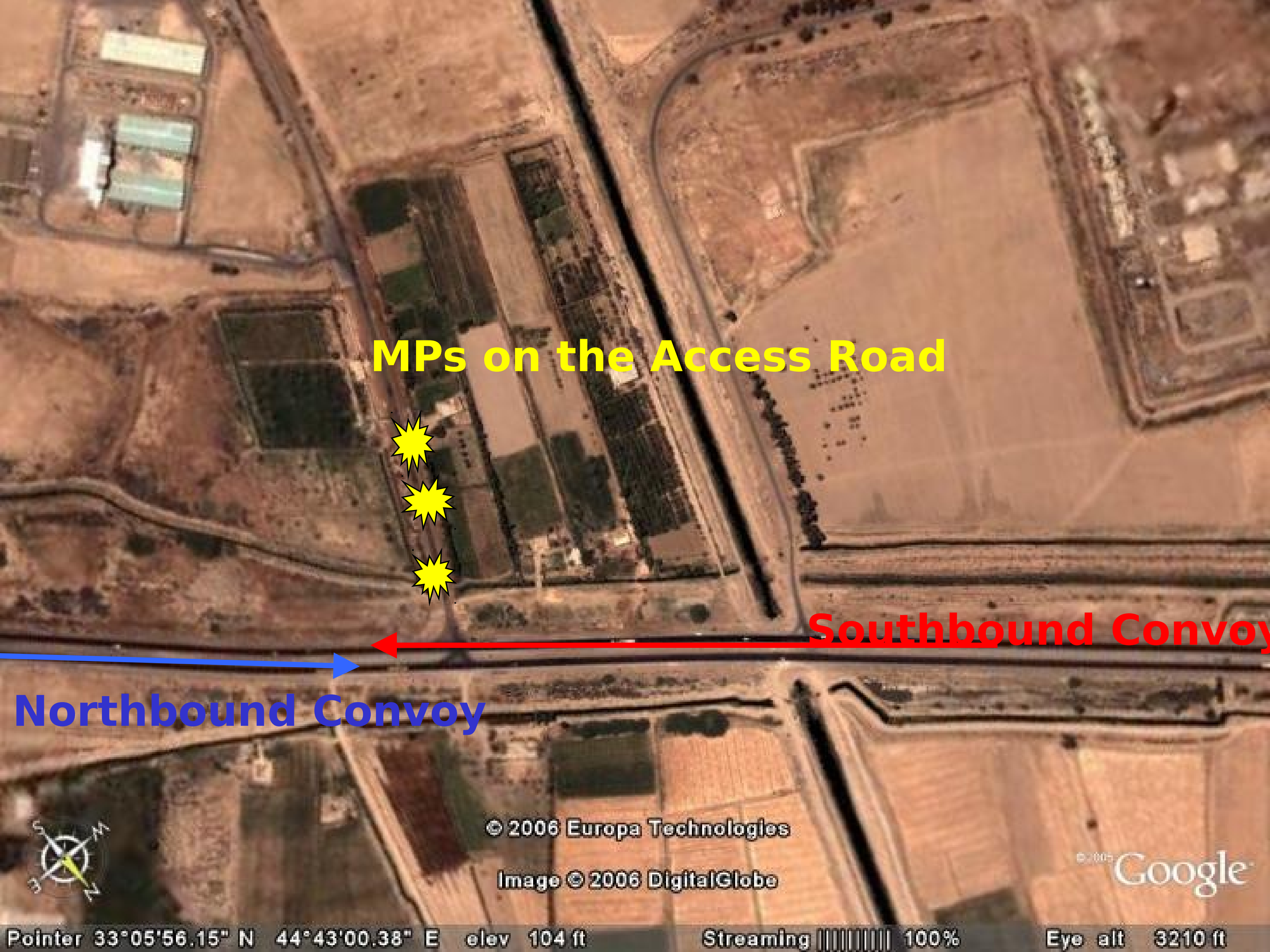


Found Egress Vehicles

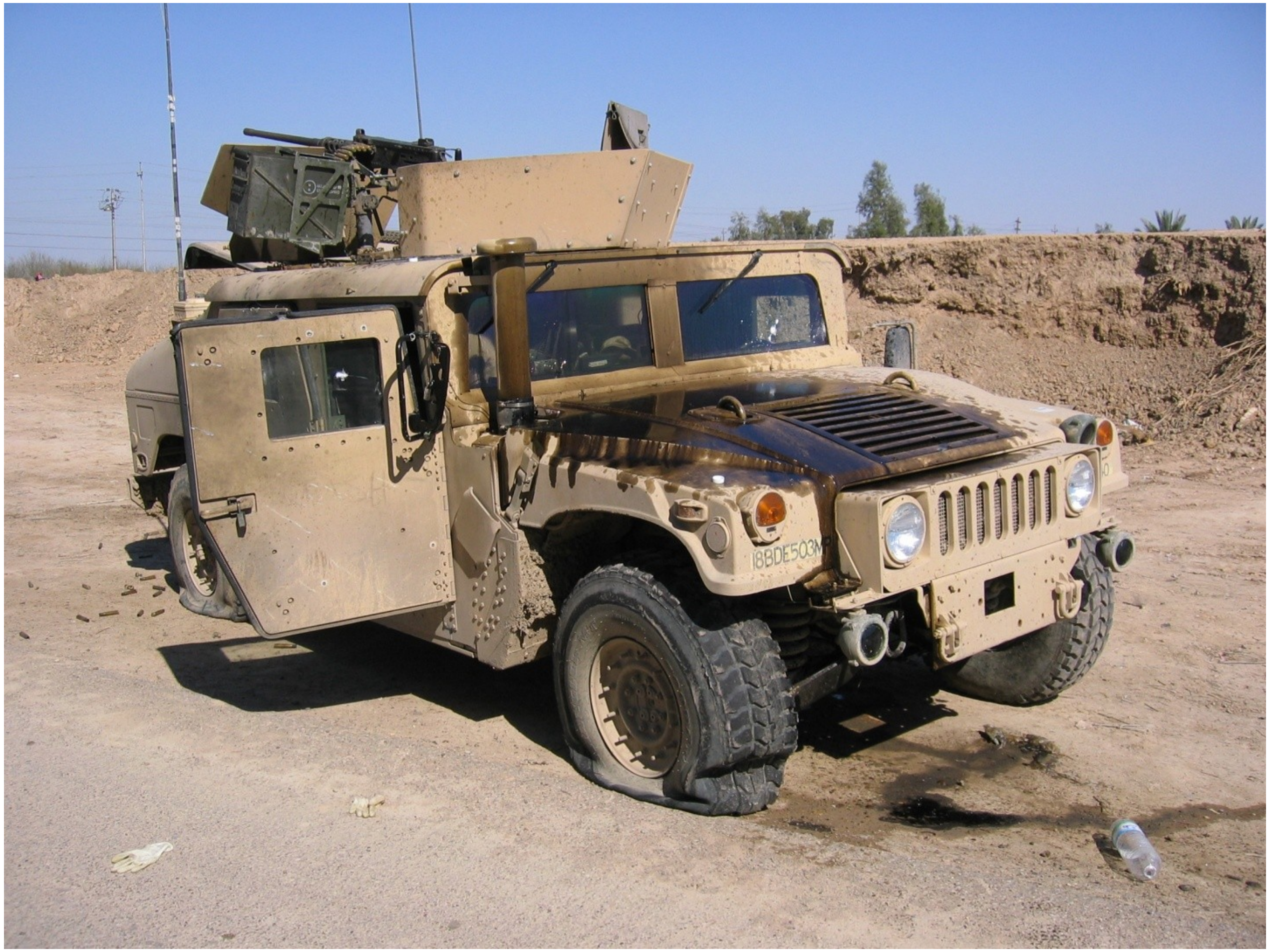


MPs dismounted to fight

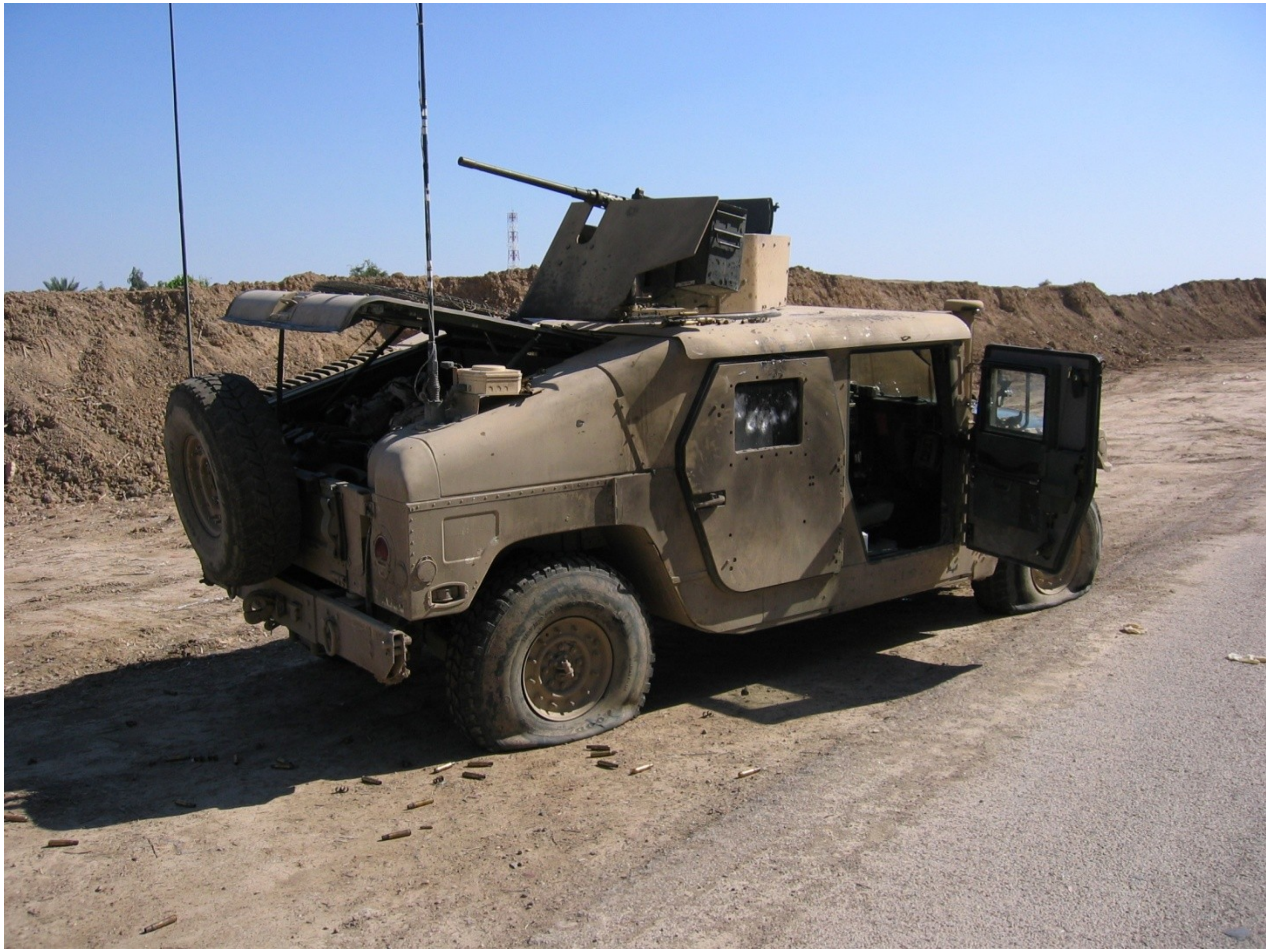



MPs on the Access Road
Southbound Convoy
Northbound Convoy
© 2006 Europa Technologies
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe
©2005 Google
Pointer 33°05'56.15" N 44°43'00.38" E elev 104 ft
Streaming |||||||||| 100%
Eye alt 3210 ft

SSG Nein’s M1114
617th MP


18BDE503MP

SSG Nein’s M1114
617th MP

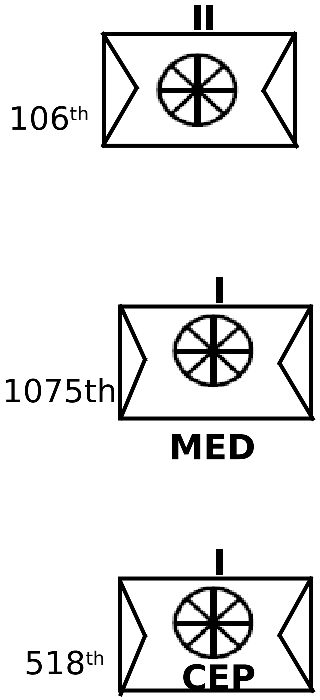


Background of the Northbound Convoy

- Mission: 1075th TC CO executes Iraqi Express mission to Theater Distribution Center at LSA Anaconda 20 March 2005.

- Convoy Organization:
  - Convoy Commander SSG Uhl (1075th)
    - 6 x M915/872s
    - 2 x M915 bobtails
    - 3 HMMWV Convoy Escort Platforms
    - 20 x IAP Tractor-Trailer Systems
    - 2 x IAP bobtails

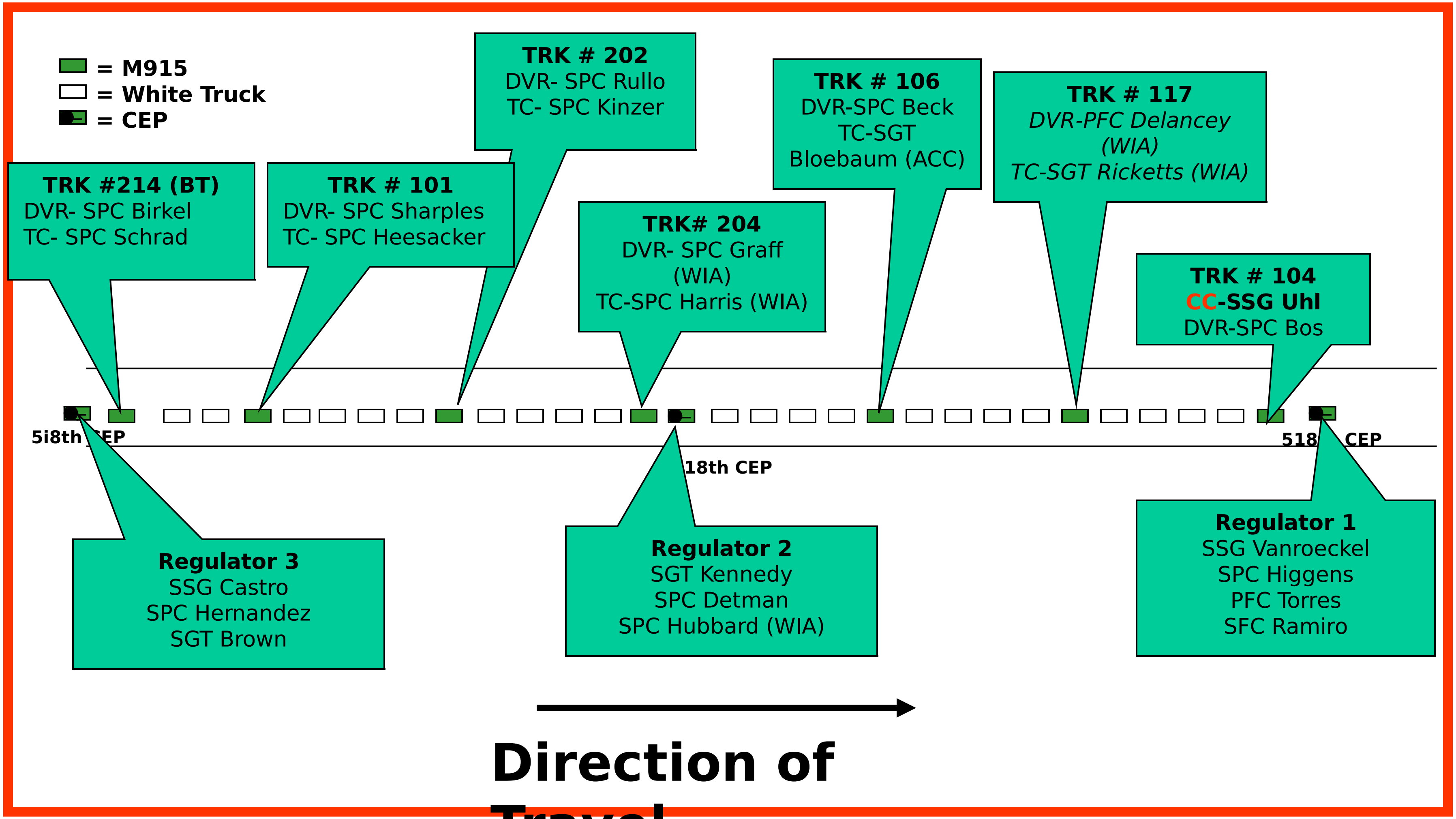
  - 518th Convoy Escort Company (P) escort SSG Vanroeckel (Call Sign Regulator)
    - 3 HMMWV Convoy Escort Platforms
- Chronology
  - 19 March: Convoy picks up loads at TDC and arrives at Scania
  - 20 March: Convoy departs Scania enroute to LSAA via ASR Kiev/Bismark
    - 1125: Ambush Begins
    - 1210: Enemy Neutralized



Battle Chronology

- Convoy Schematic Diagram
- Battlefield sketches
  - Initial Activity
  - Lead Vehicle Advances
  - Bus IED’d
  - CEP moves into Kill Zone
  - Rear of convoy under attack
  - CEP withdrawal
  - RPG Grenade Attack
  - Trucks begin exiting kill zone
  - CEP Advance
  - Convoy receives fire from right side
  - Casualties moved
  - Video clip of casualty being moved
  - KYNG Soldier Recovery
  - Casualty recovery
  - Convoy moves out
  - AT4 fired
  - Ground Assault
  - KYNG Soldier evacuated
  - SPC Hubbard evacuated
- Pictures

1075th Convoy Schematic Diagram



🟩 **= M915**
☐ **= White Truck**
■ **= CEP**

TRK #214 (BT)
DVR- SPC Birkel
TC- SPC Schrad

TRK # 101
DVR- SPC Sharples
TC- SPC Heesacker

TRK # 202
DVR- SPC Rullo
TC- SPC Kinzer

TRK# 204
DVR- SPC Graff (WIA)
TC-SPC Harris (WIA)

TRK # 106
DVR-SPC Beck
TC-SGT Bloebaum (ACC)

TRK # 117
DVR-PFC Delancey (WIA)
TC-SGT Ricketts (WIA)

TRK # 104
CC-SSG Uhl
DVR-SPC Bos

5i8th EP

18th CEP

518 CEP

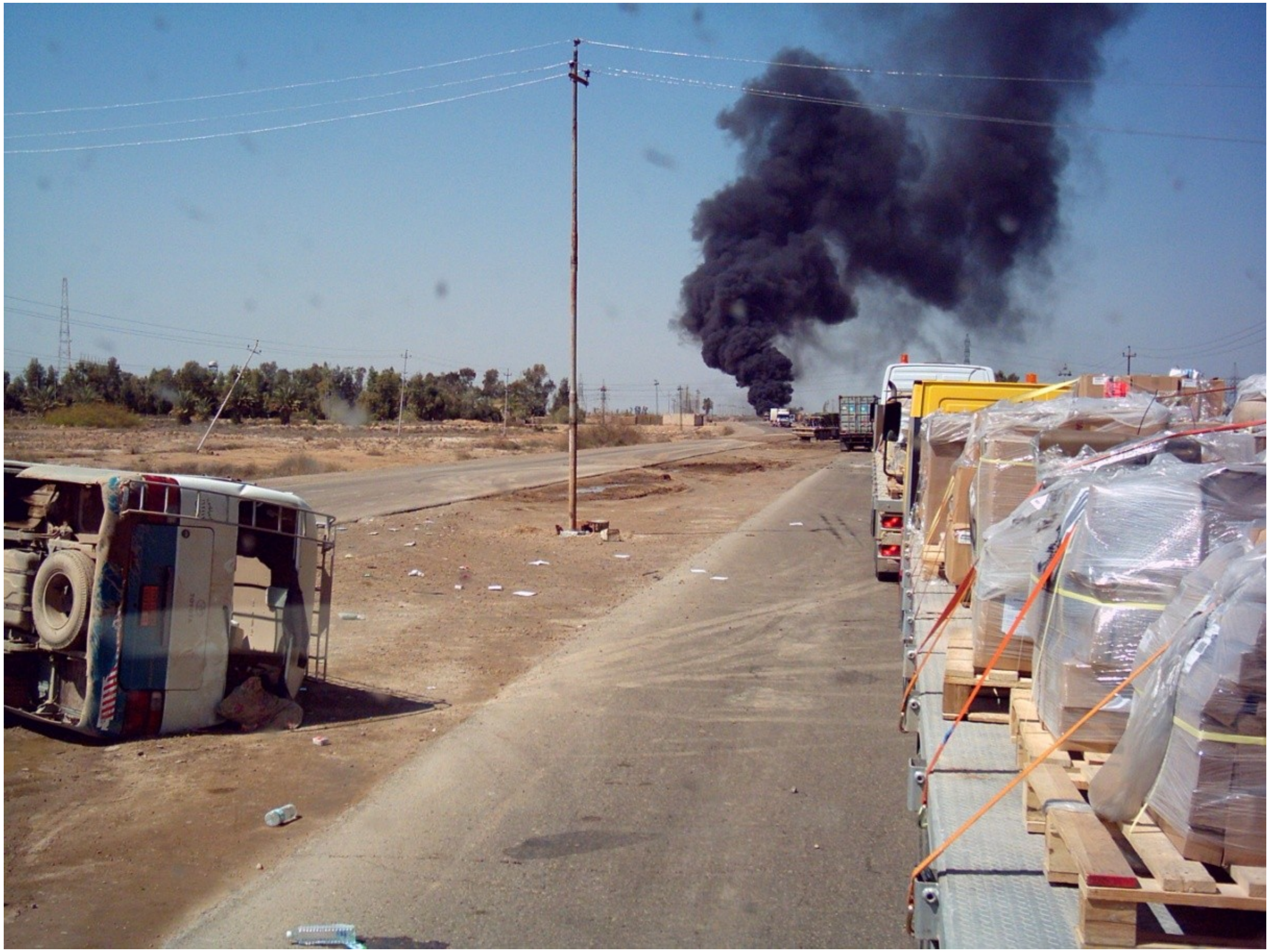
Regulator 3
SSG Castro
SPC Hernandez
SGT Brown

Regulator 2
SGT Kennedy
SPC Detman
SPC Hubbard (WIA)

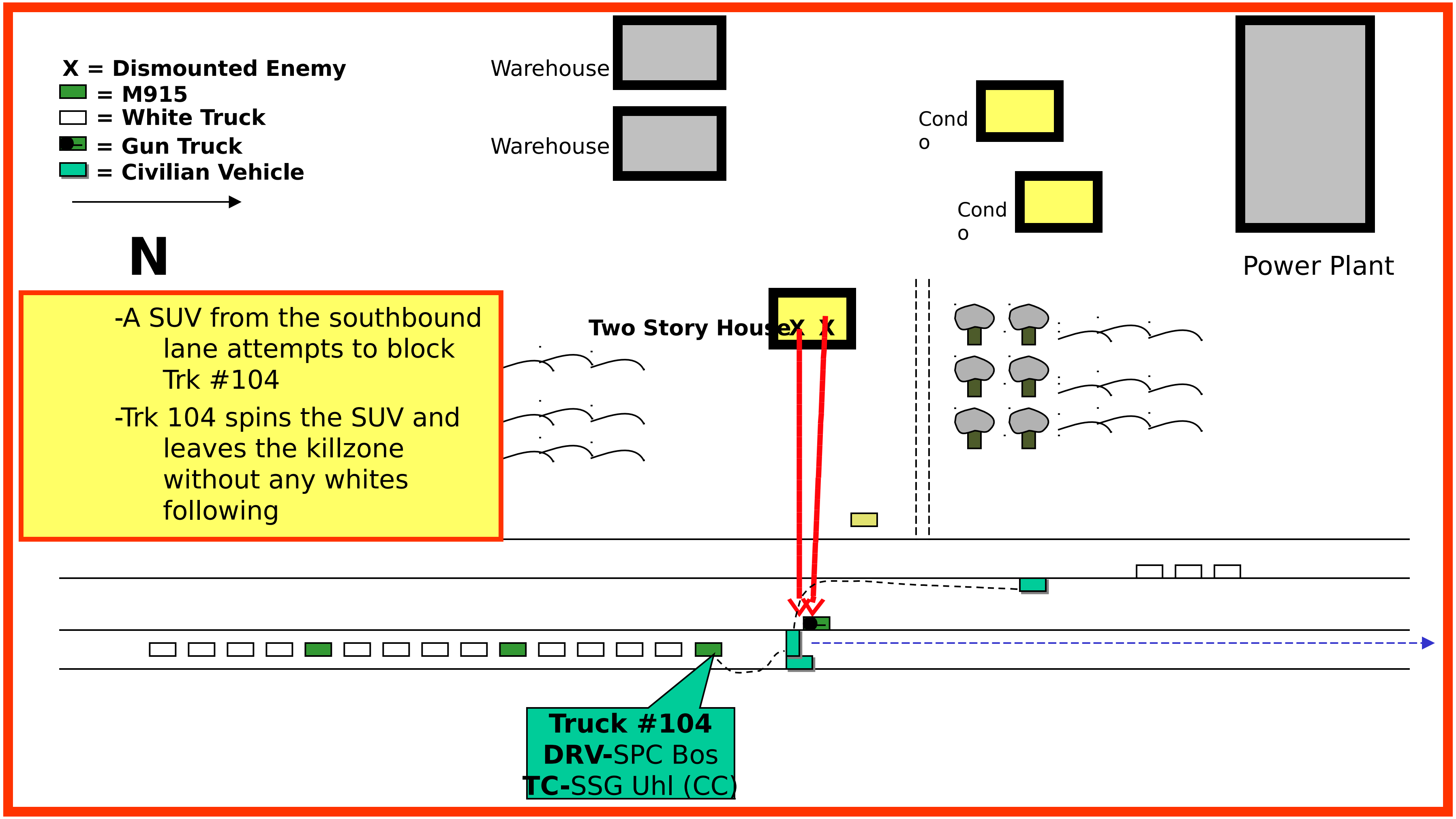
Regulator 1
SSG Vanroeckel
SPC Higgens
PFC Torres
SFC Ramiro

Direction of Travel

AAFES Convoy
Hit in Southbound Lane



Lead Vehicle Advances

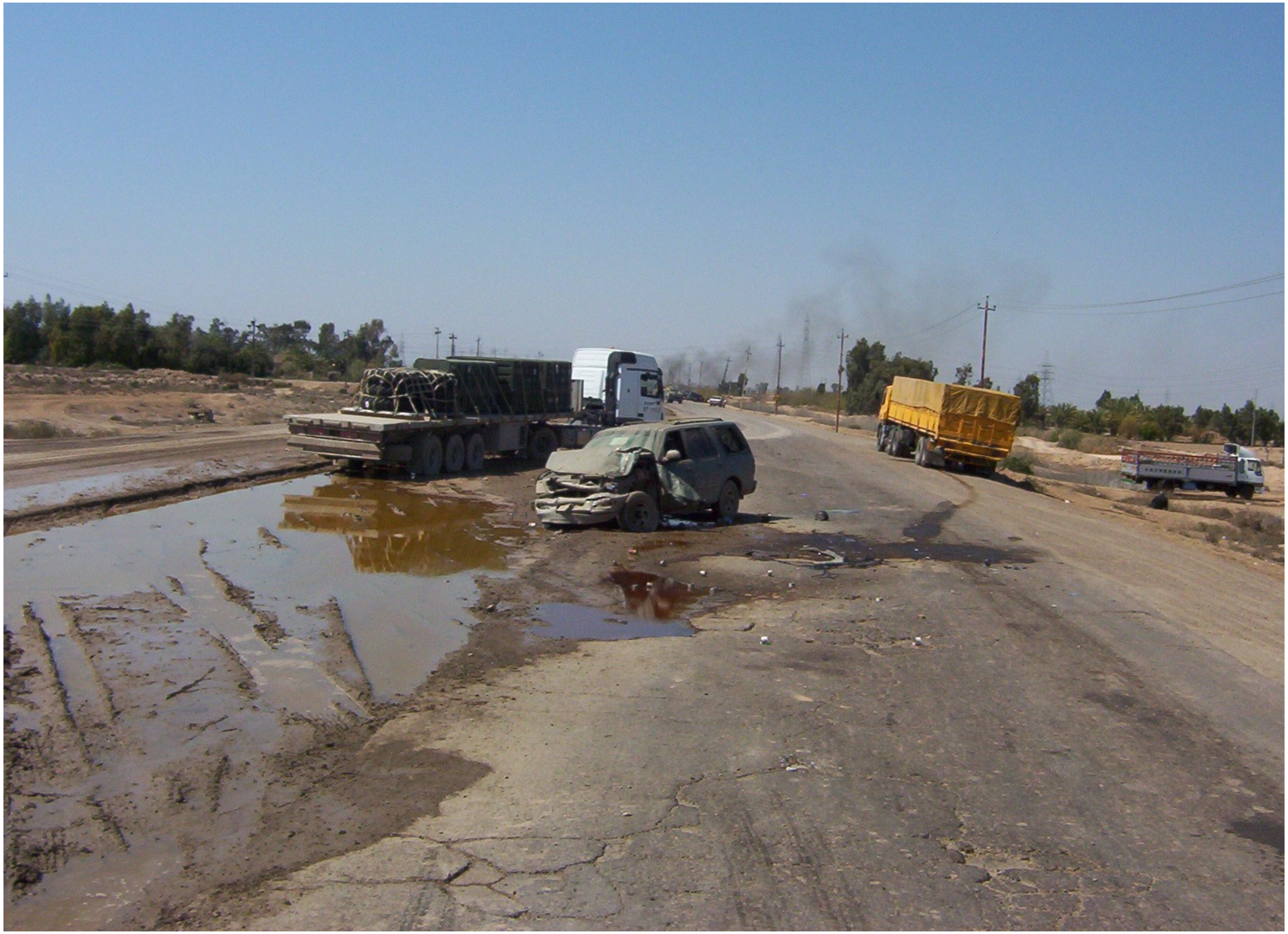

X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
● = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle
N
Warehouse
Warehouse
Condo
Condo
Power Plant
Two Story House
X
X

-A SUV from the southbound lane attempts to block Trk #104

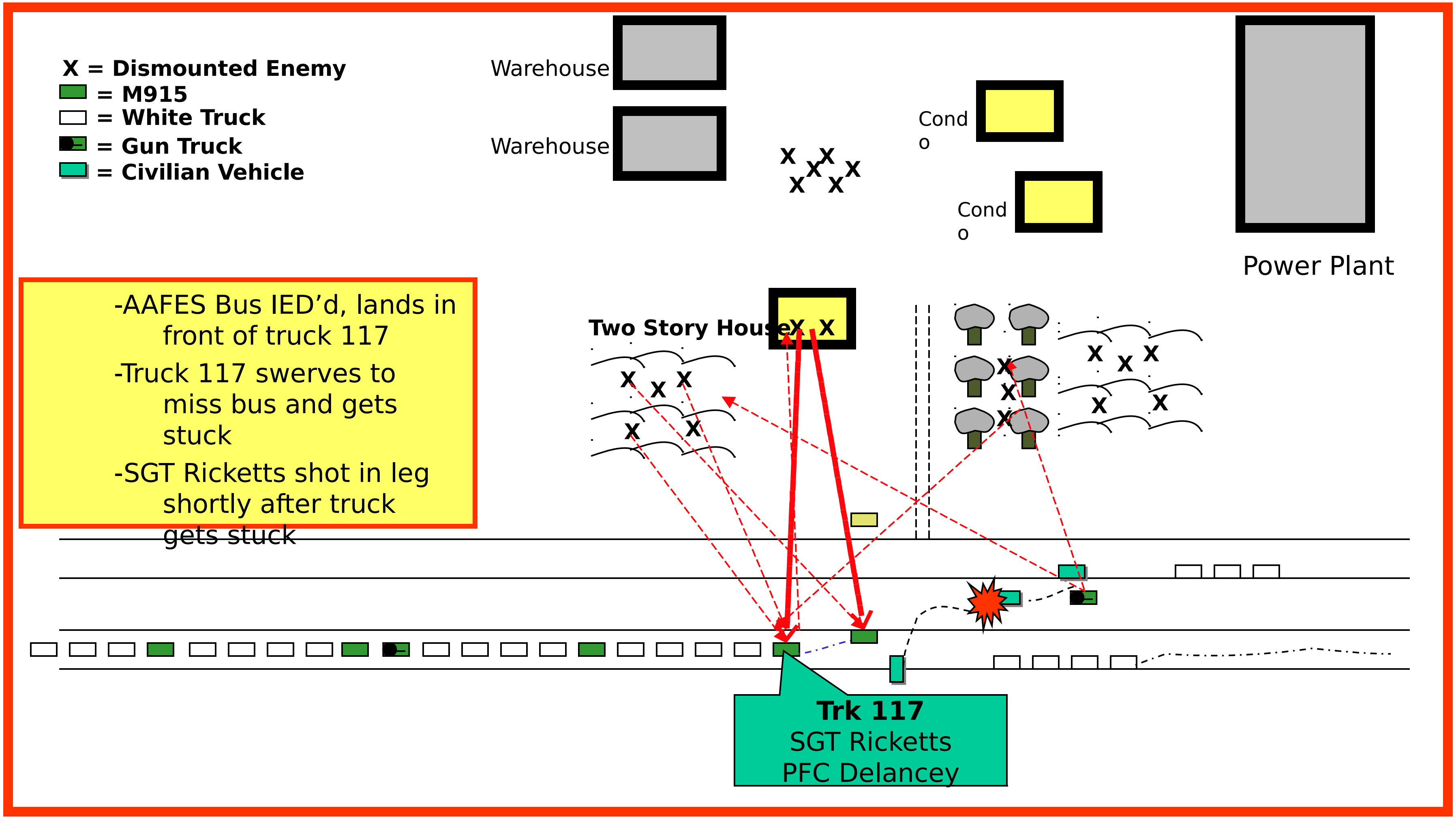
-Trk 104 spins the SUV and leaves the killzone without any whites following

Truck #104
DRV-SPC Bos
TC-SSG Uhl (CC)

SUV careened into opposite lane momentarily blocking lead M915



Bus IED’d



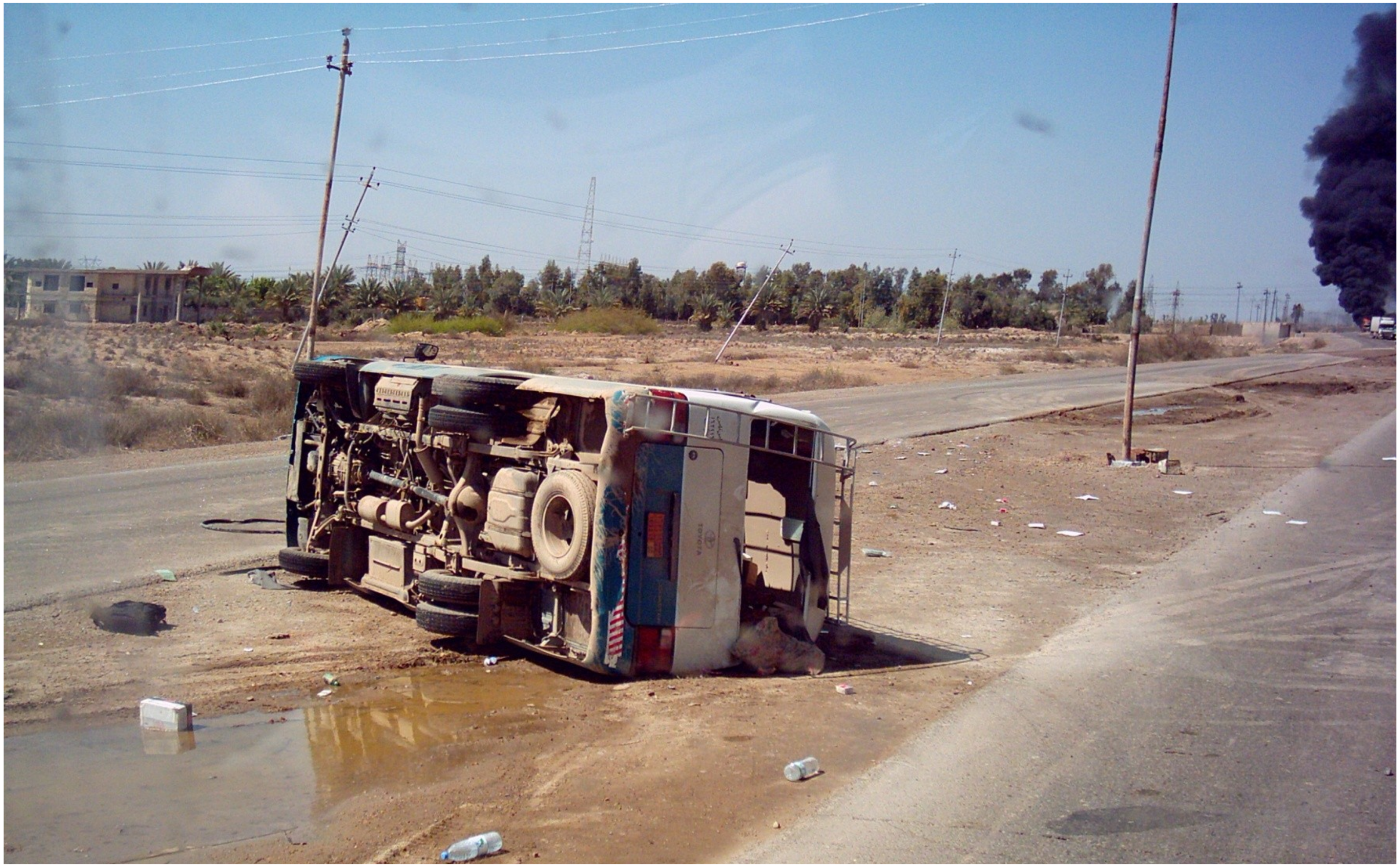
X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 **= M915**
☐ **= White Truck**
◧ **= Gun Truck**
🟦 **= Civilian Vehicle**

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X X X X X X
X X
X X X X X
X X X X X
X X X

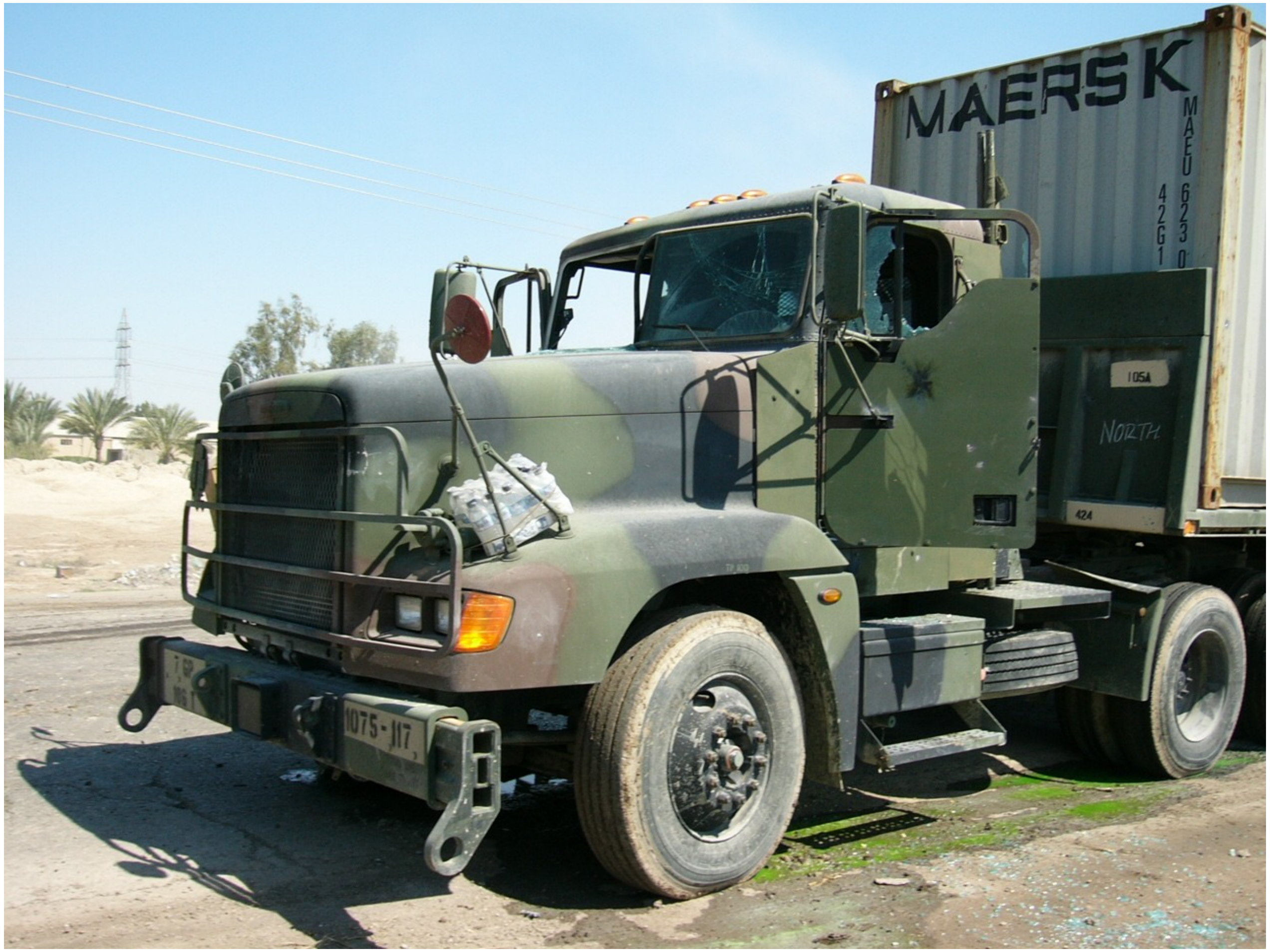
- -AAFES Bus IED’d, lands in front of truck 117
- -Truck 117 swerves to miss bus and gets stuck
- -SGT Ricketts shot in leg shortly after truck gets stuck

Trk 117
SGT Ricketts
PFC Delancey

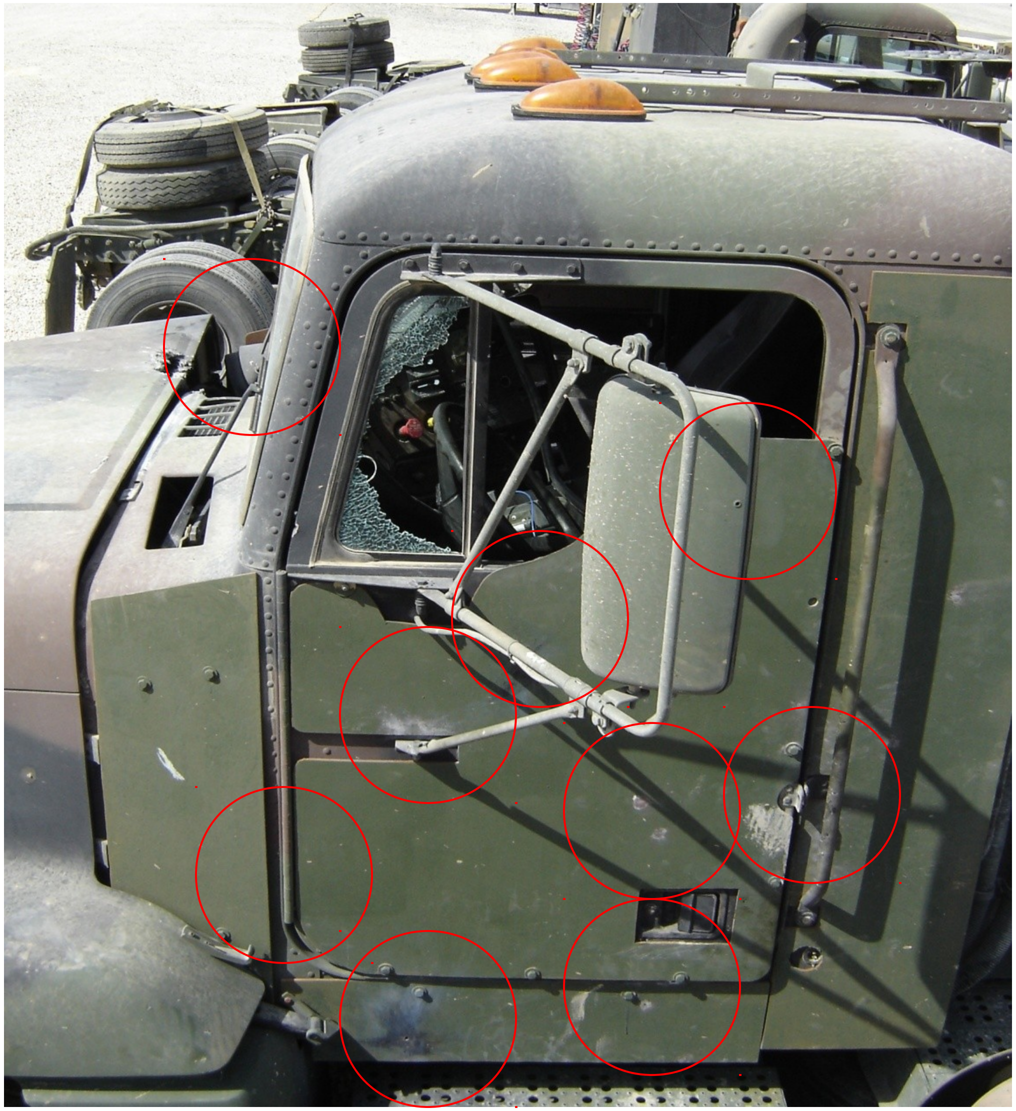
AAFES Bus Tried to Clear Kill Zone Hit by an IED

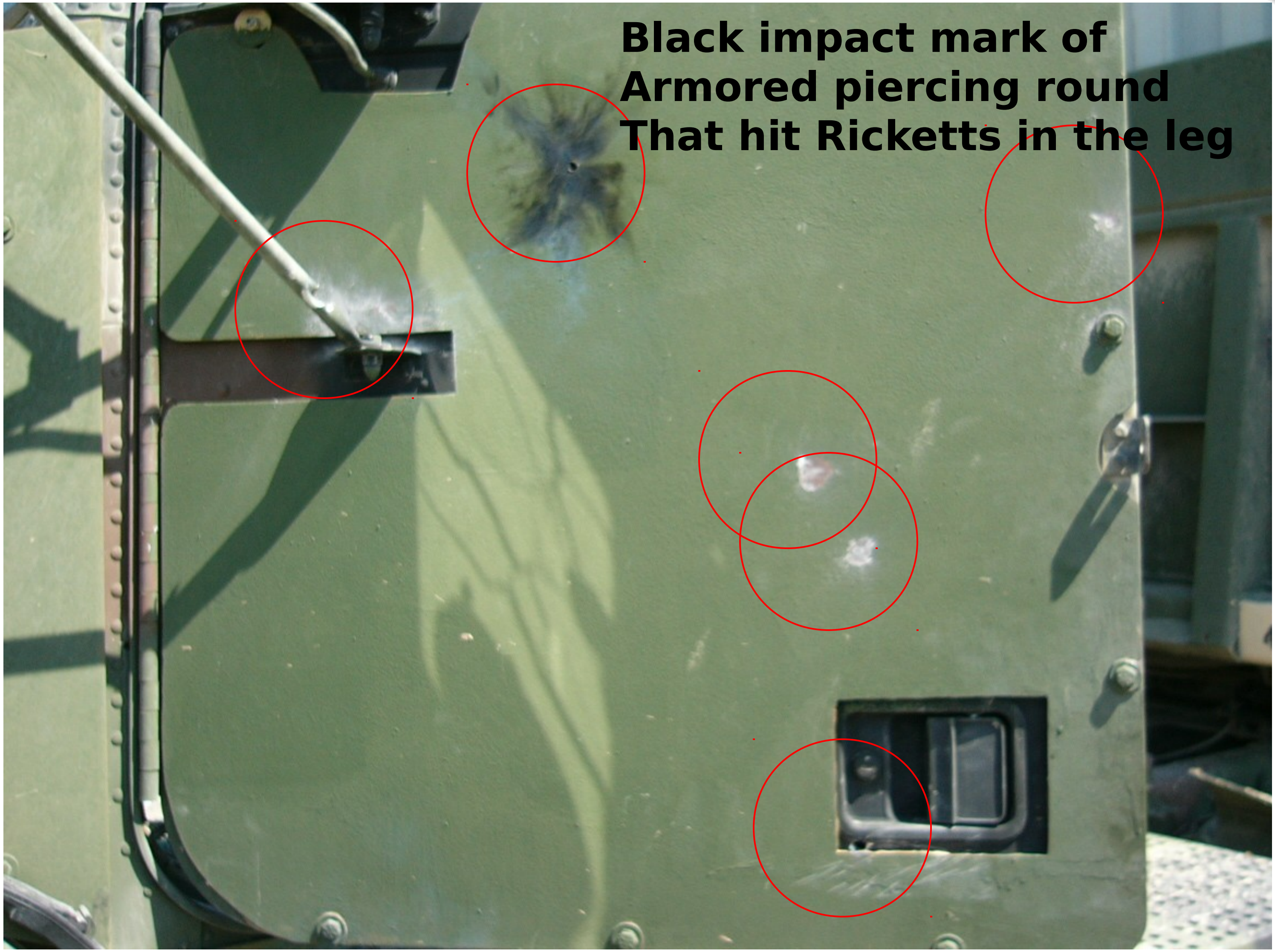


Ricketts was Wounded in Leg


MAERSK
MAEU 6230
42G1
105A
NORTH
1075-117

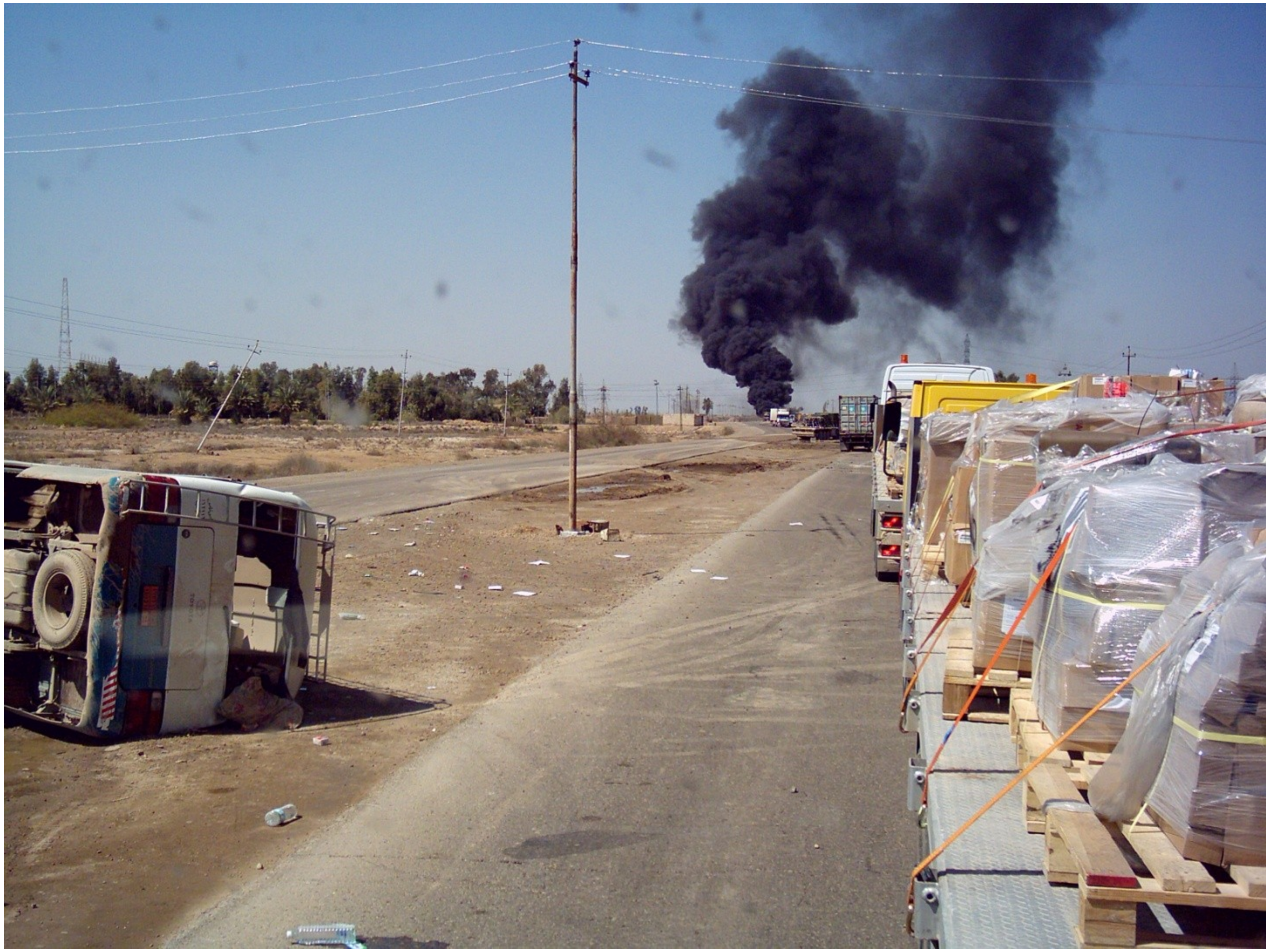
Impact of enemy rounds on Ricketts’ M915



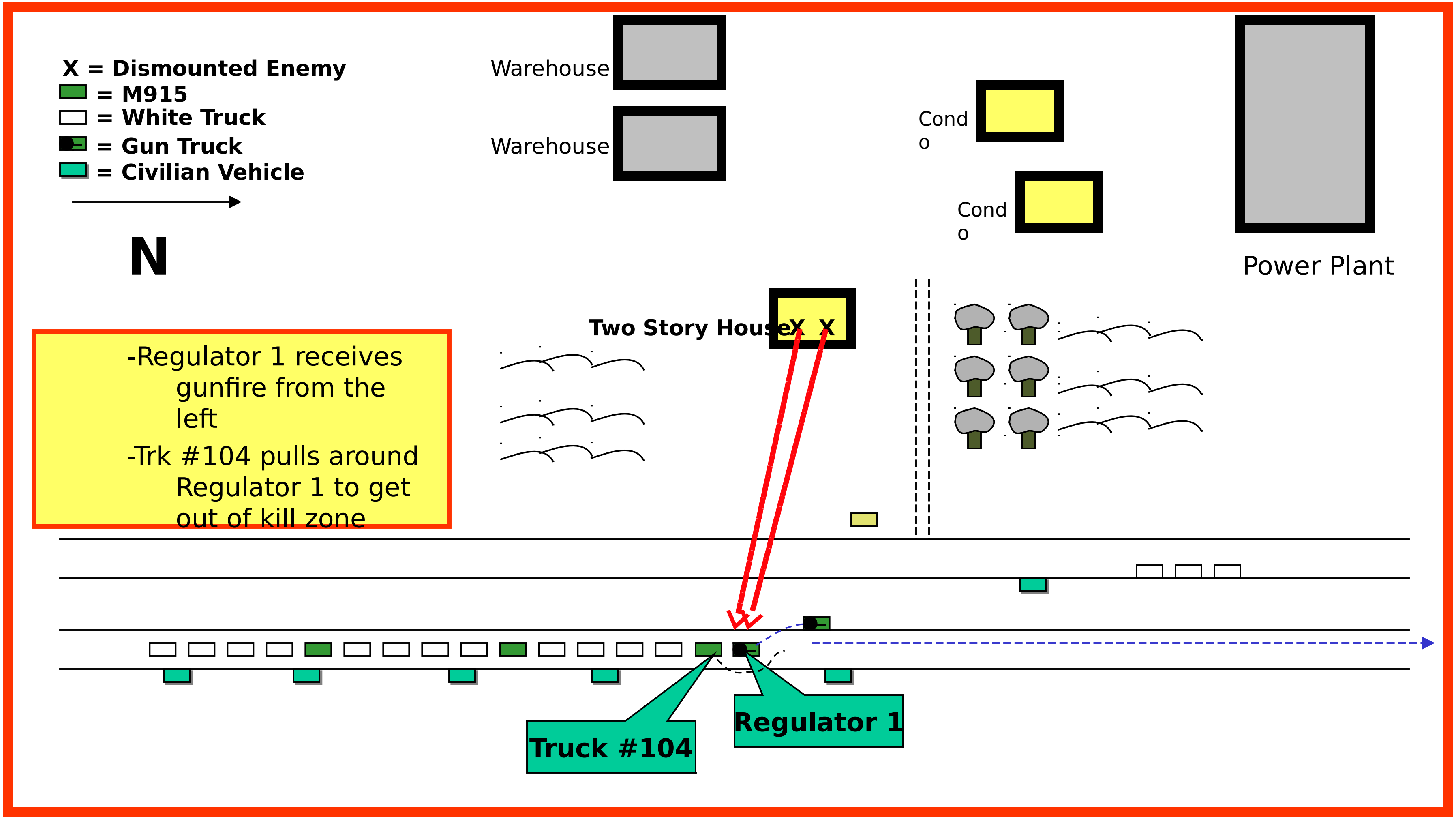


Black impact mark of
Armored piercing round
That hit Ricketts in the leg

Northbound Convoy Blocked



Initial Activity

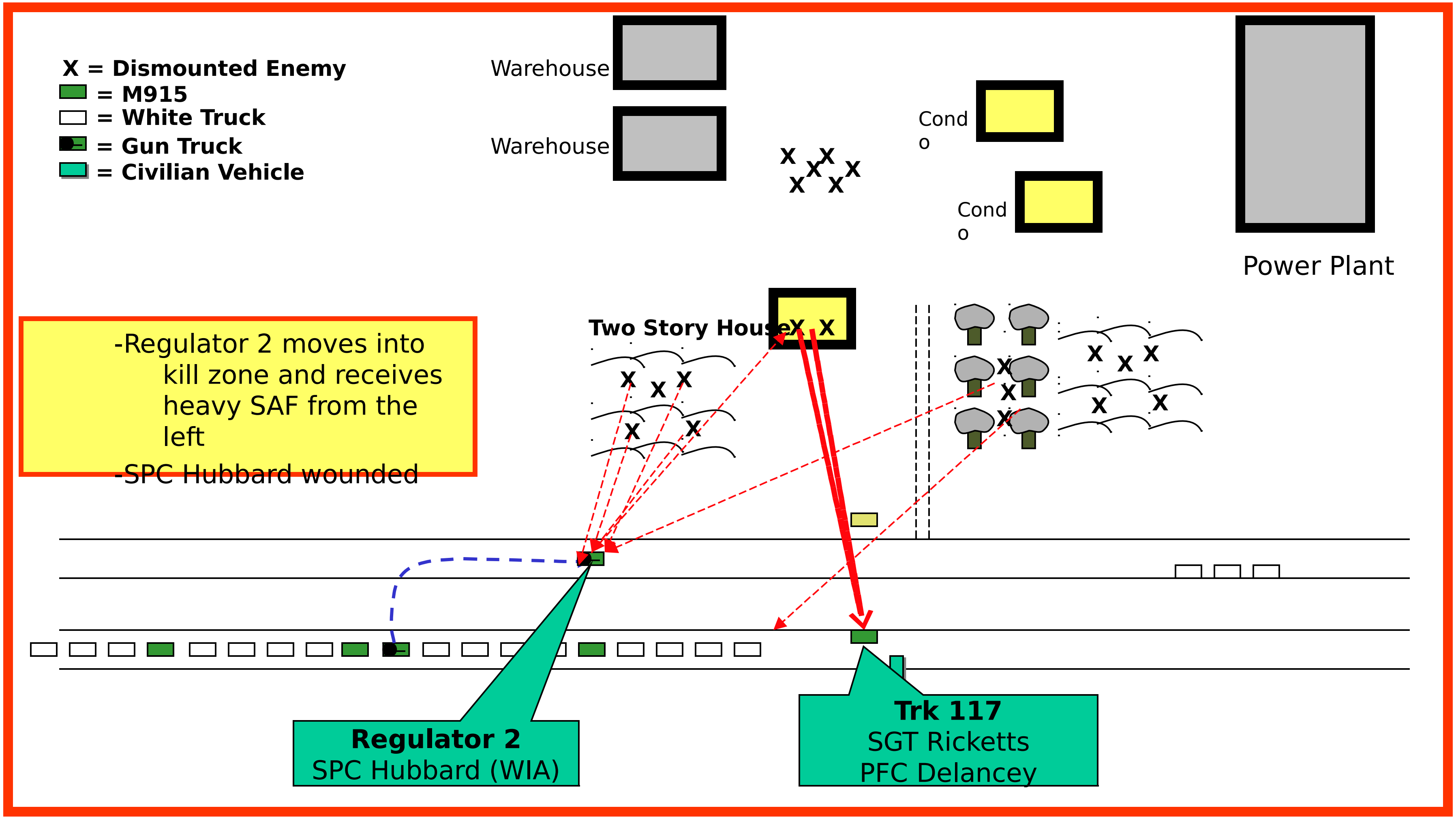


X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle

- -Regulator 1 receives gunfire from the left
- -Trk #104 pulls around Regulator 1 to get out of kill zone

N
Warehouse
Warehouse
Condo
Condo
Power Plant
Two Story House
X
X
Truck #104
Regulator 1

CEP moves into Kill zone



X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
◧ = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle

-Regulator 2 moves into kill zone and receives heavy SAF from the left

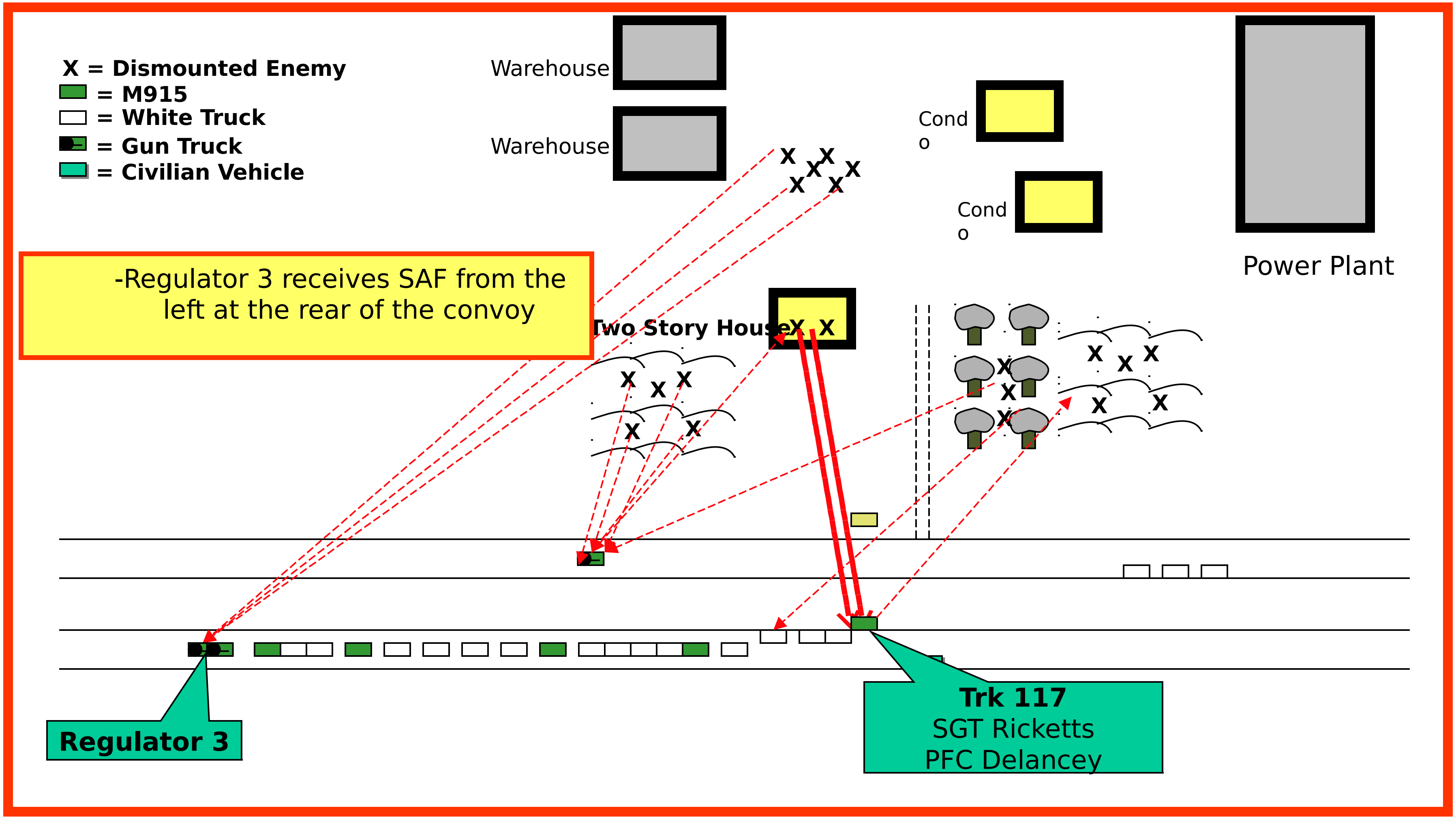
-SPC Hubbard wounded

Regulator 2
SPC Hubbard (WIA)

Trk 117
SGT Ricketts
PFC Delancey

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X

Rear of convoy under attack



X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle

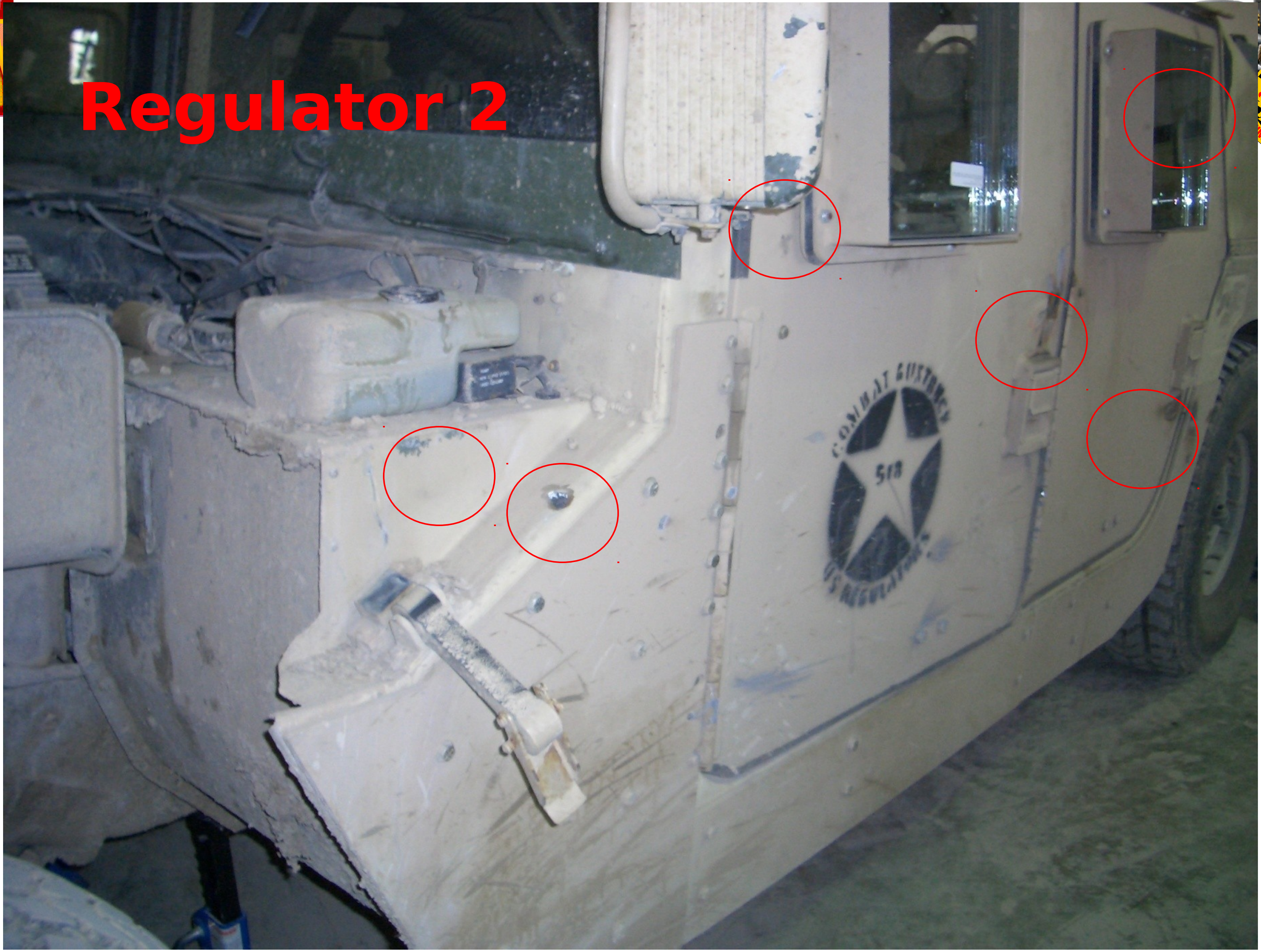
-Regulator 3 receives SAF from the left at the rear of the convoy

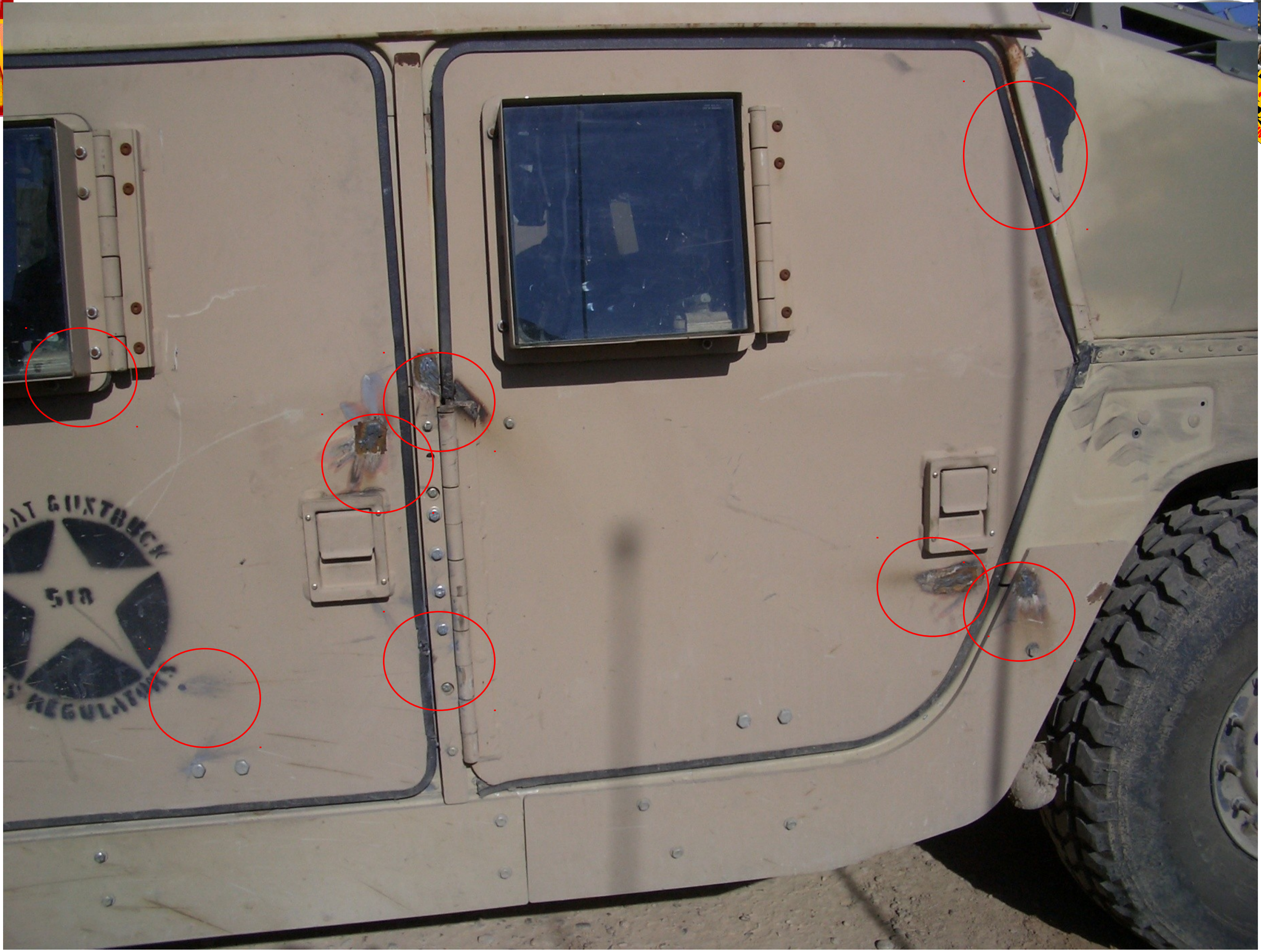
Regulator 3

Trk 117
SGT Ricketts
PFC Delancey

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X

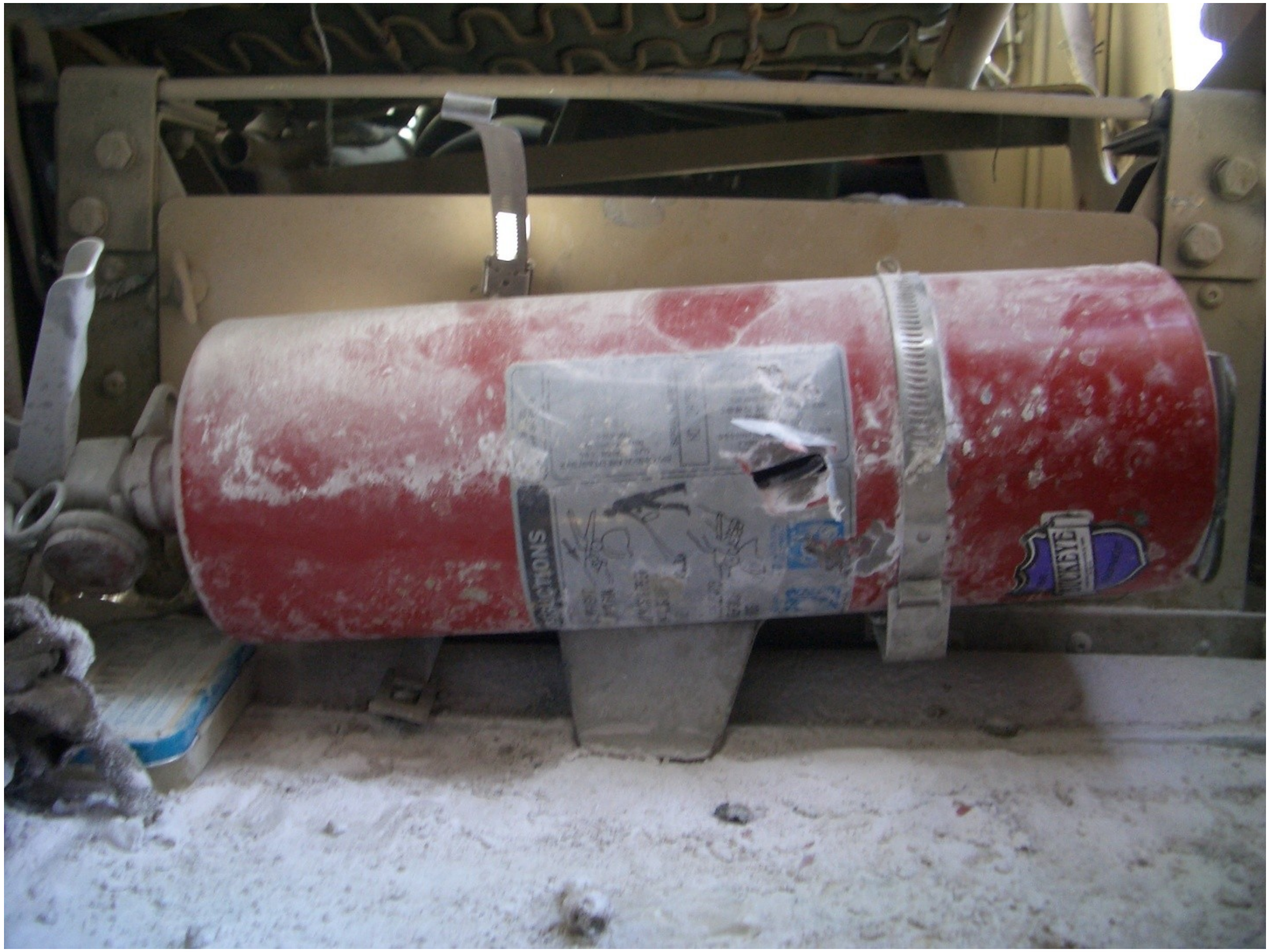
Regulator 2


COMBAT CUSTOMS
US REGULATORS

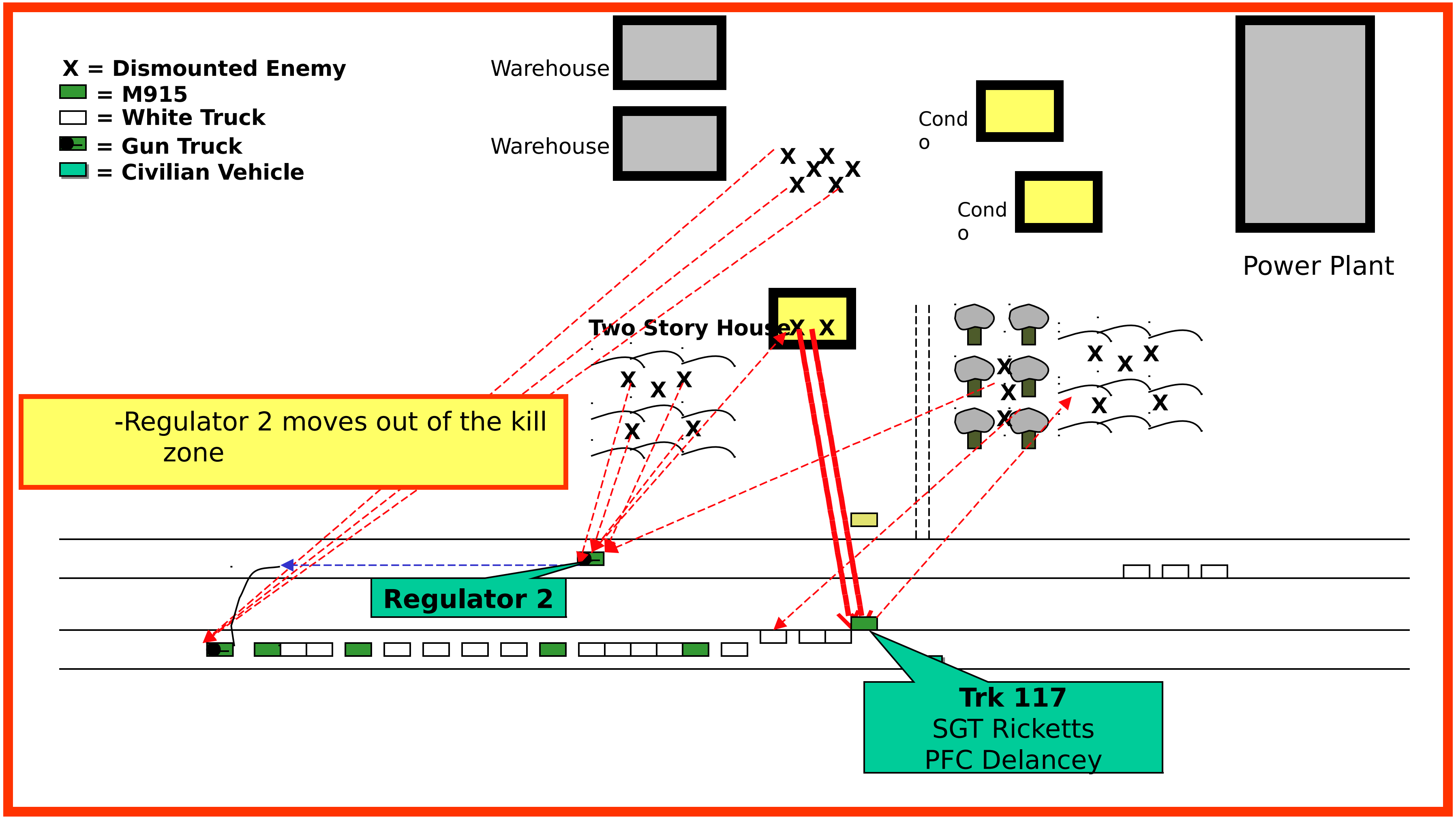

GUNTRUCK
518
REGULATIONS

Fire Extinguisher

“Regulator 2”



CEP withdrawal



X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
● = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle

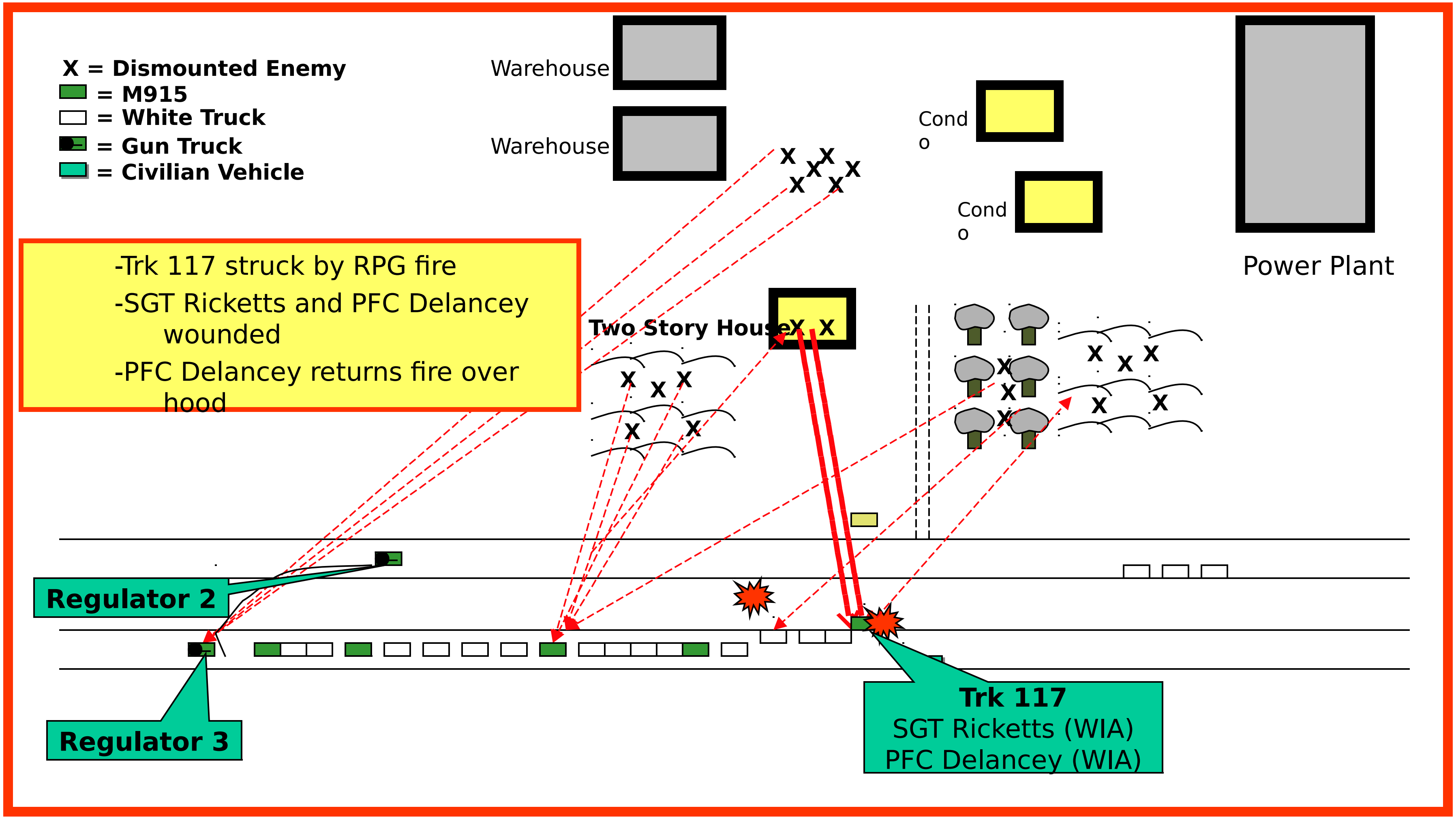
-Regulator 2 moves out of the kill zone

Regulator 2

Trk 117
SGT Ricketts
PFC Delancey

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X
X

Truck hit by RPG fire



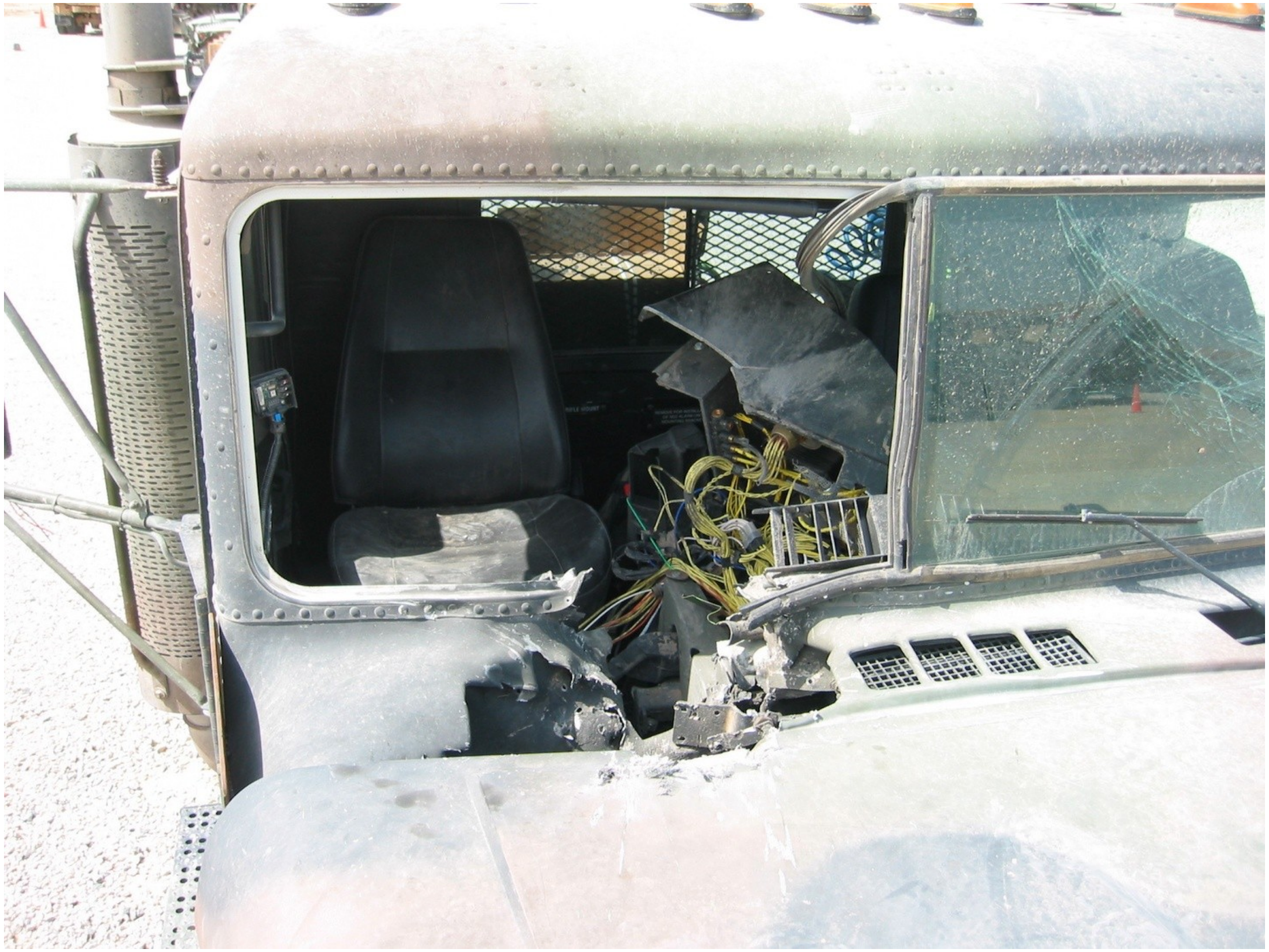
X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle

- -Trk 117 struck by RPG fire
- -SGT Ricketts and PFC Delancey wounded
- -PFC Delancey returns fire over hood

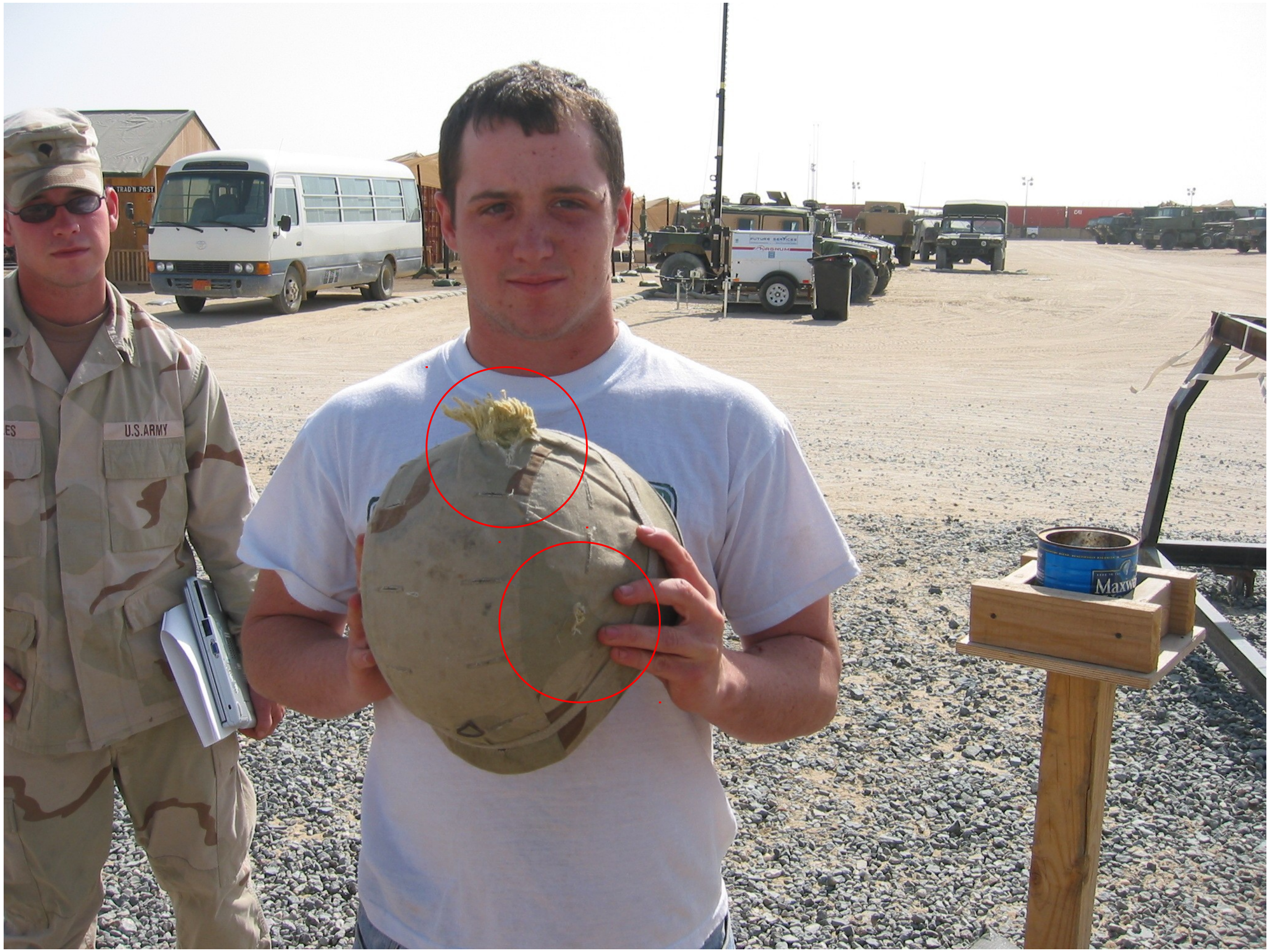
Trk 117
SGT Ricketts (WIA)
PFC Delancey (WIA)

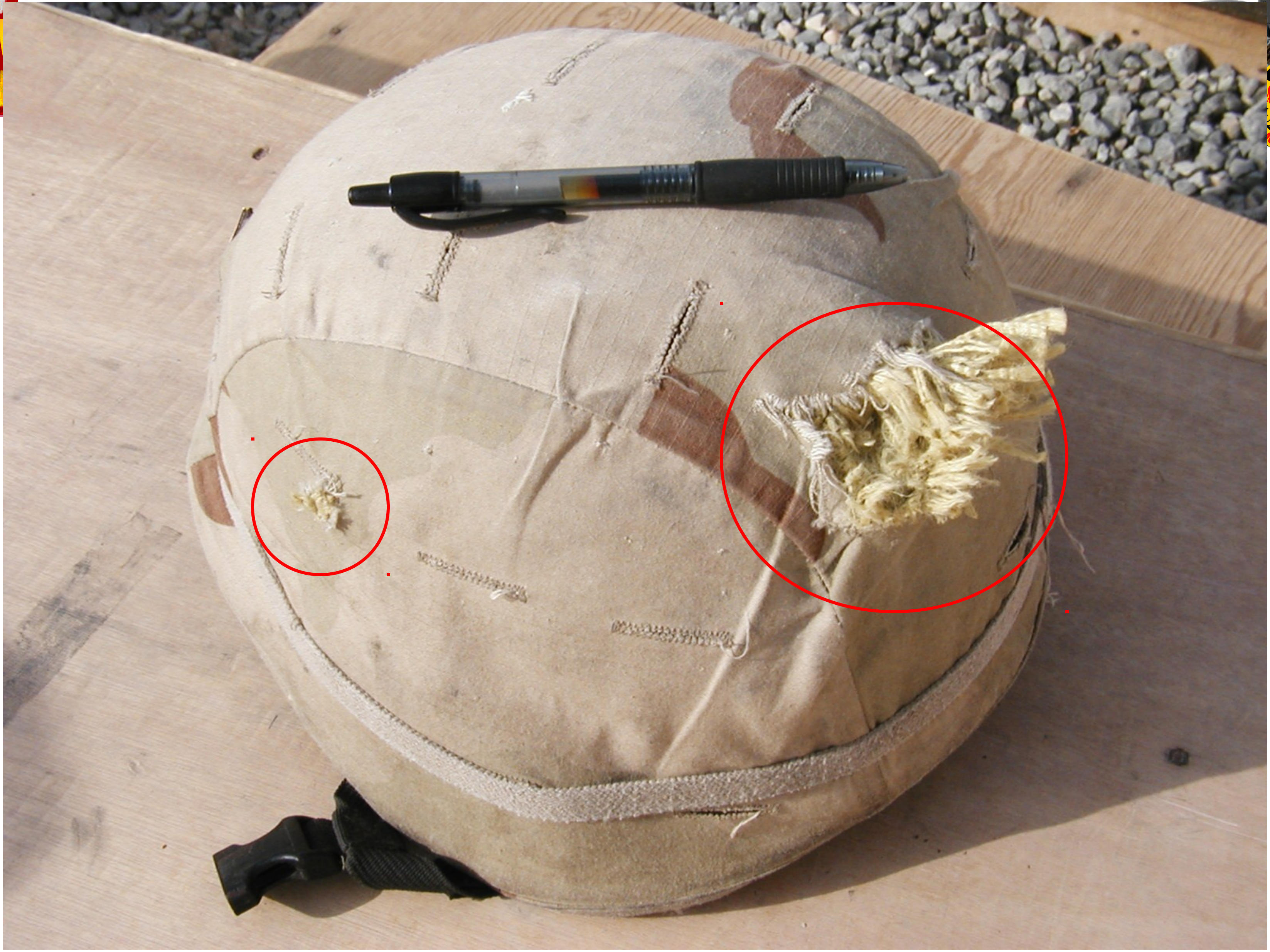
Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X
Regulator 2
Regulator 3

RPG Hit Passenger Side of Ricketts' Truck

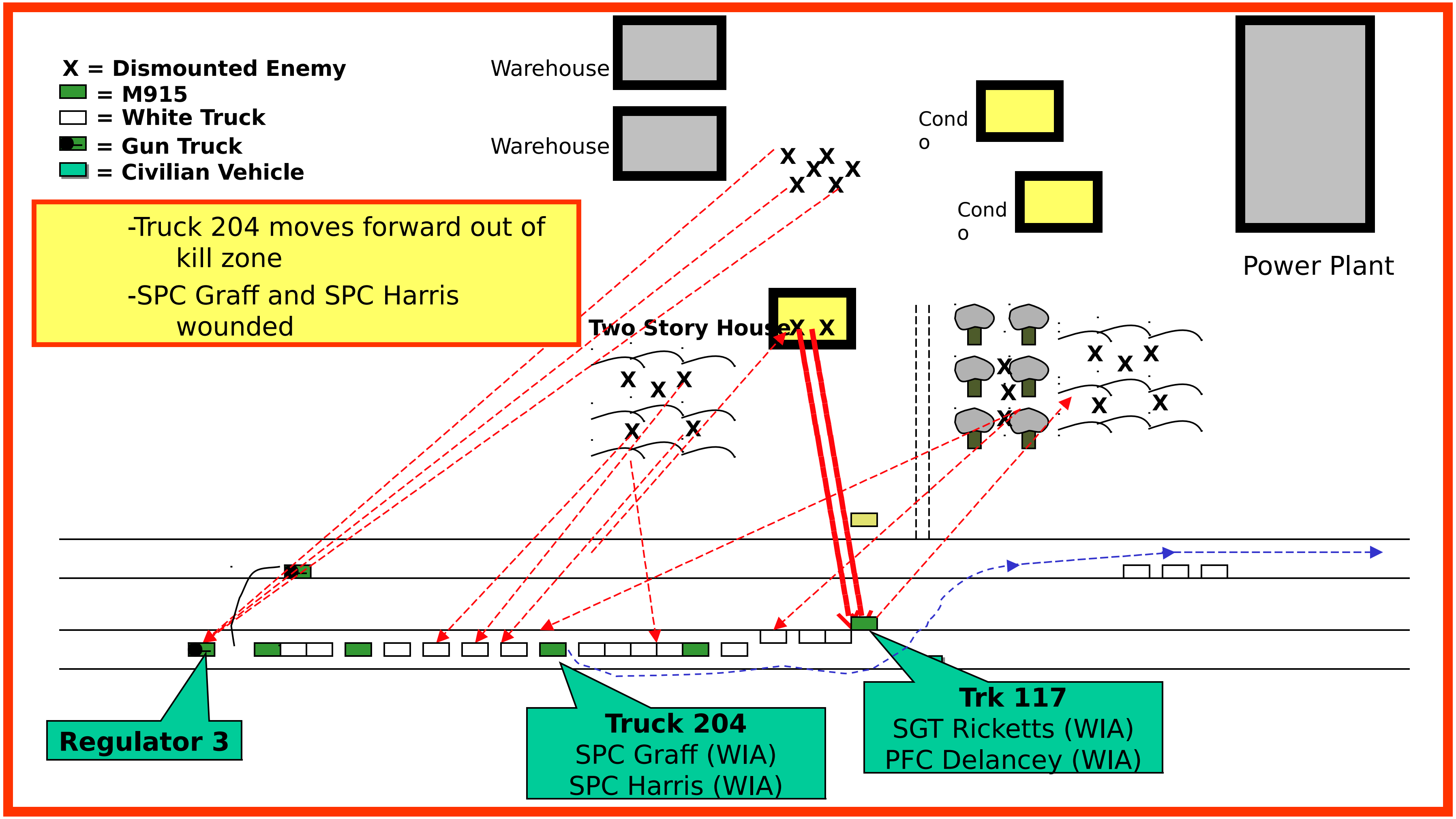


SPC Delancy


U.S. ARMY
Maxw



Trucks move out of kill zone


Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
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Cond
o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X

X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle

-Truck 204 moves forward out of kill zone

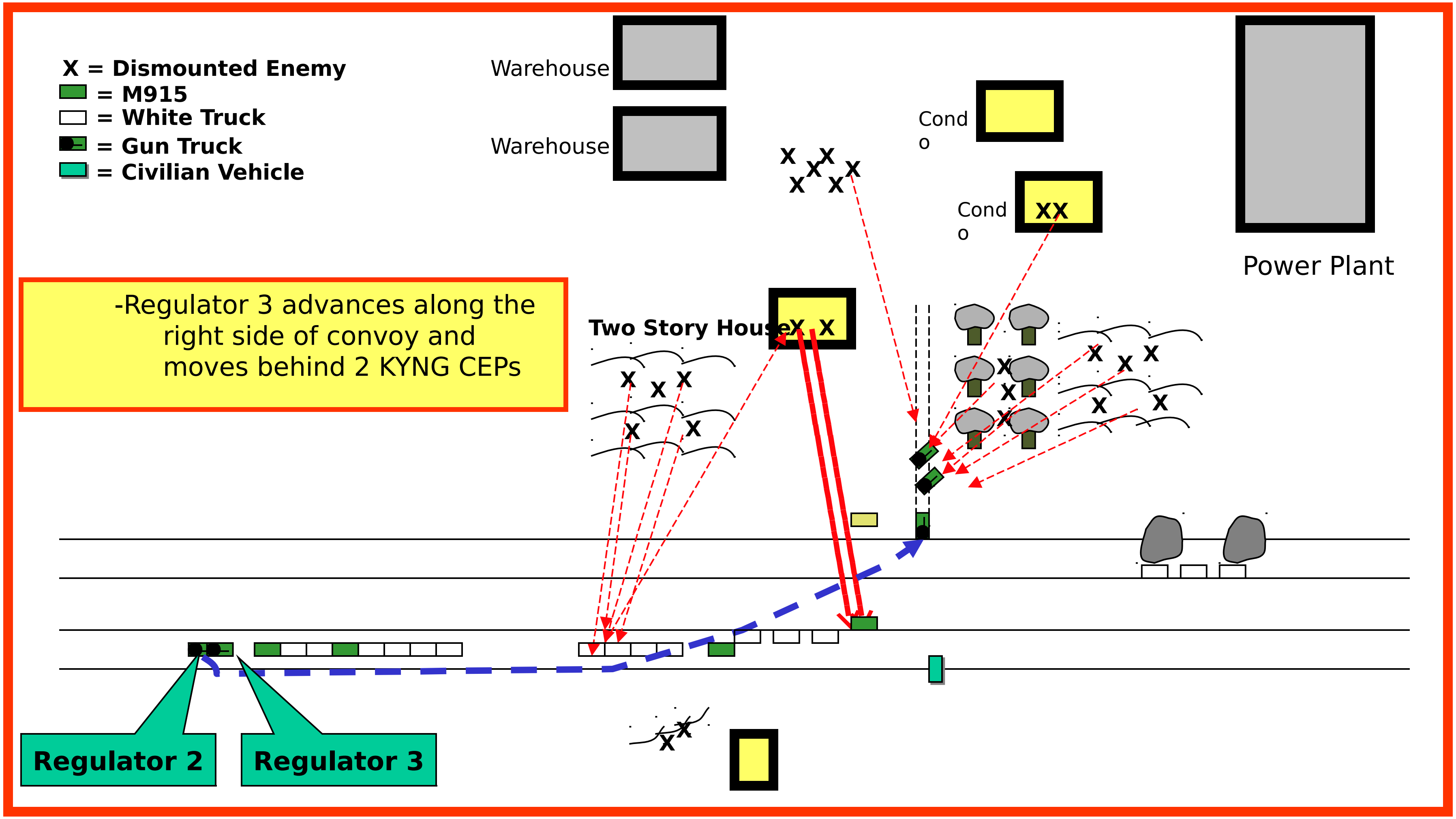
-SPC Graff and SPC Harris wounded

Regulator 3

Truck 204
SPC Graff (WIA)
SPC Harris (WIA)

Trk 117
SGT Ricketts (WIA)
PFC Delancey (WIA)

CEP Advance



X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
▣ = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle

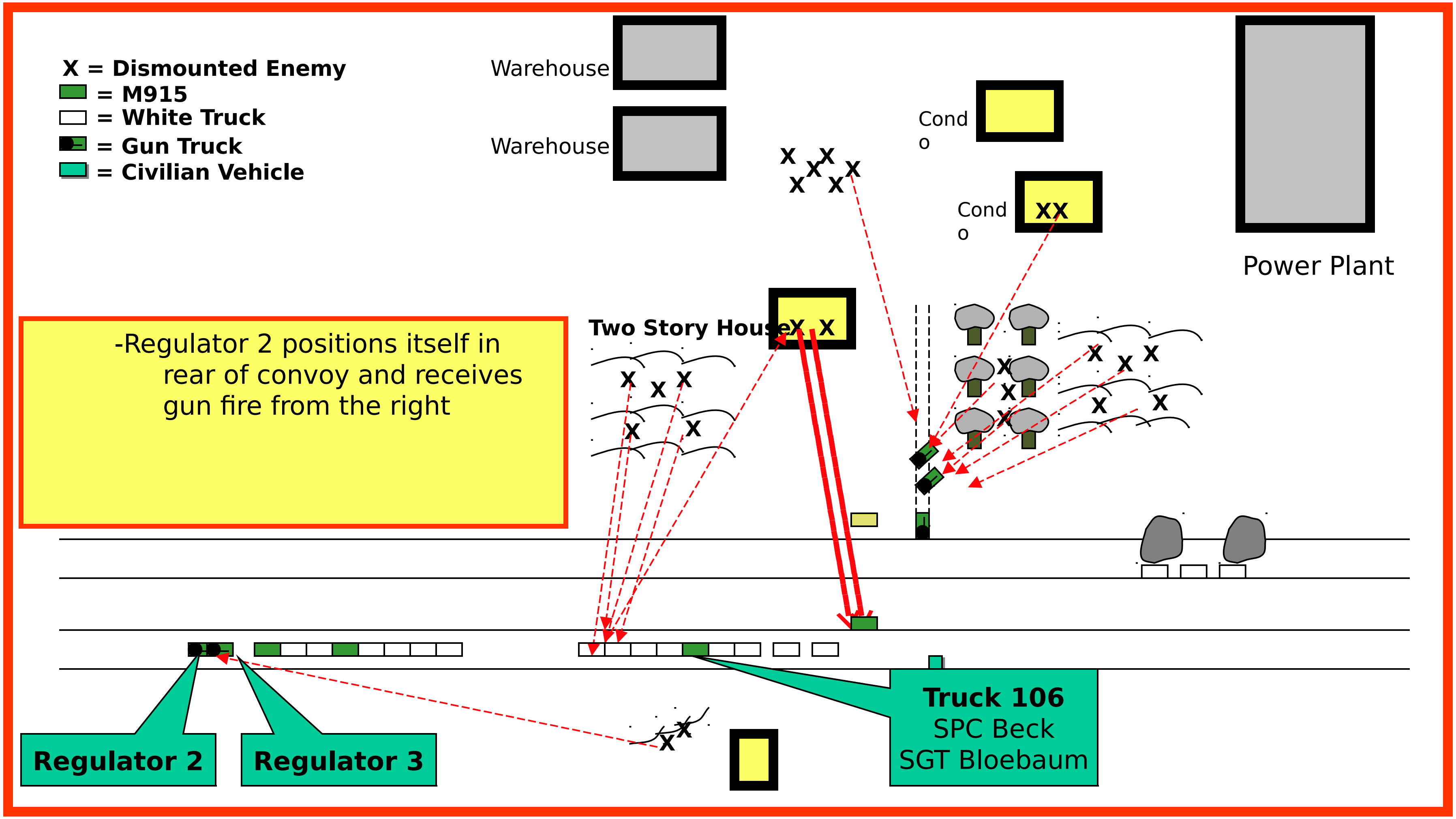
-Regulator 3 advances along the right side of convoy and moves behind 2 KYNG CEPs

Regulator 2

Regulator 3

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
X

Convoy engaged from the right



X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle

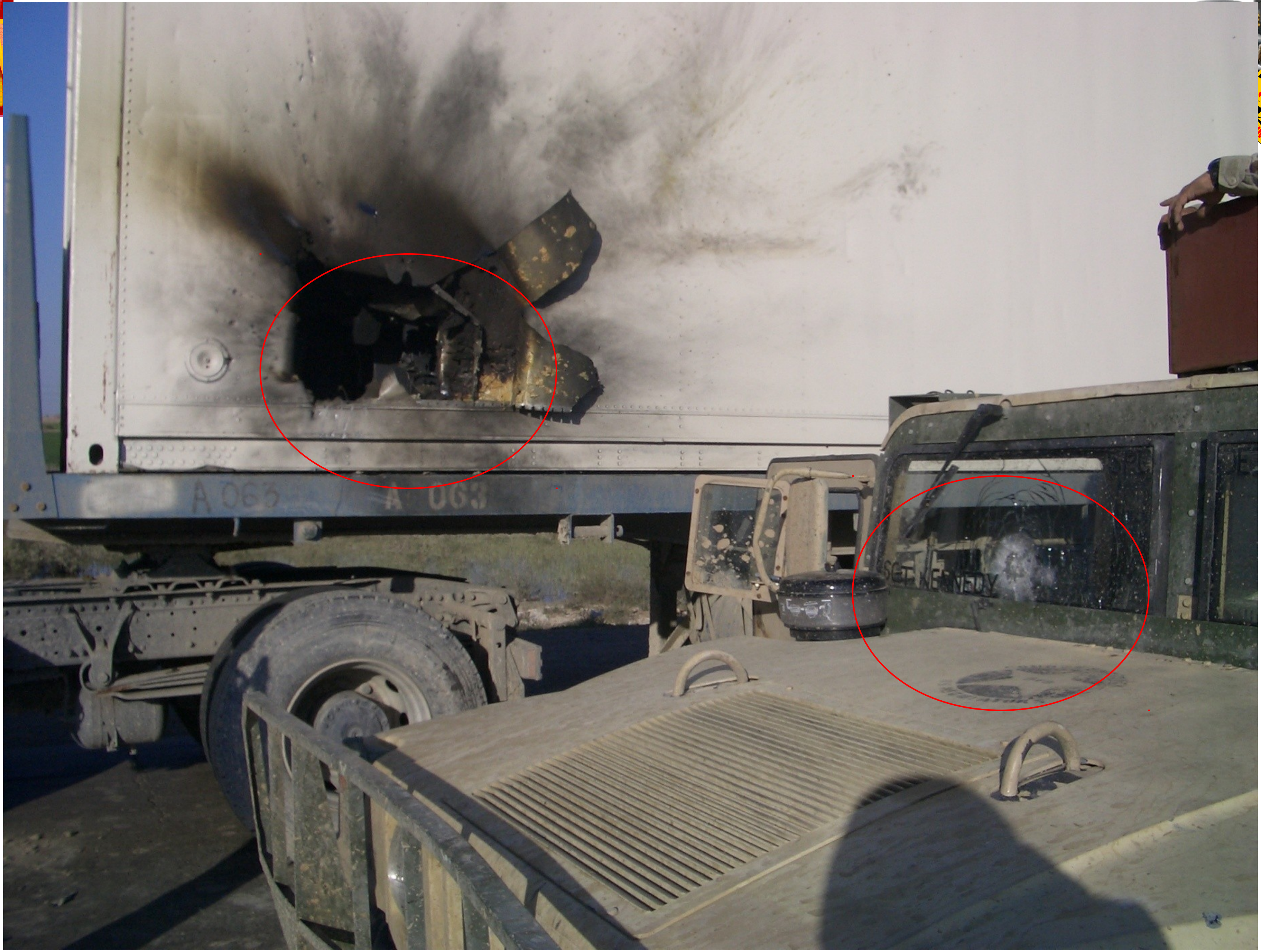
Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
X X

-Regulator 2 positions itself in rear of convoy and receives gun fire from the right

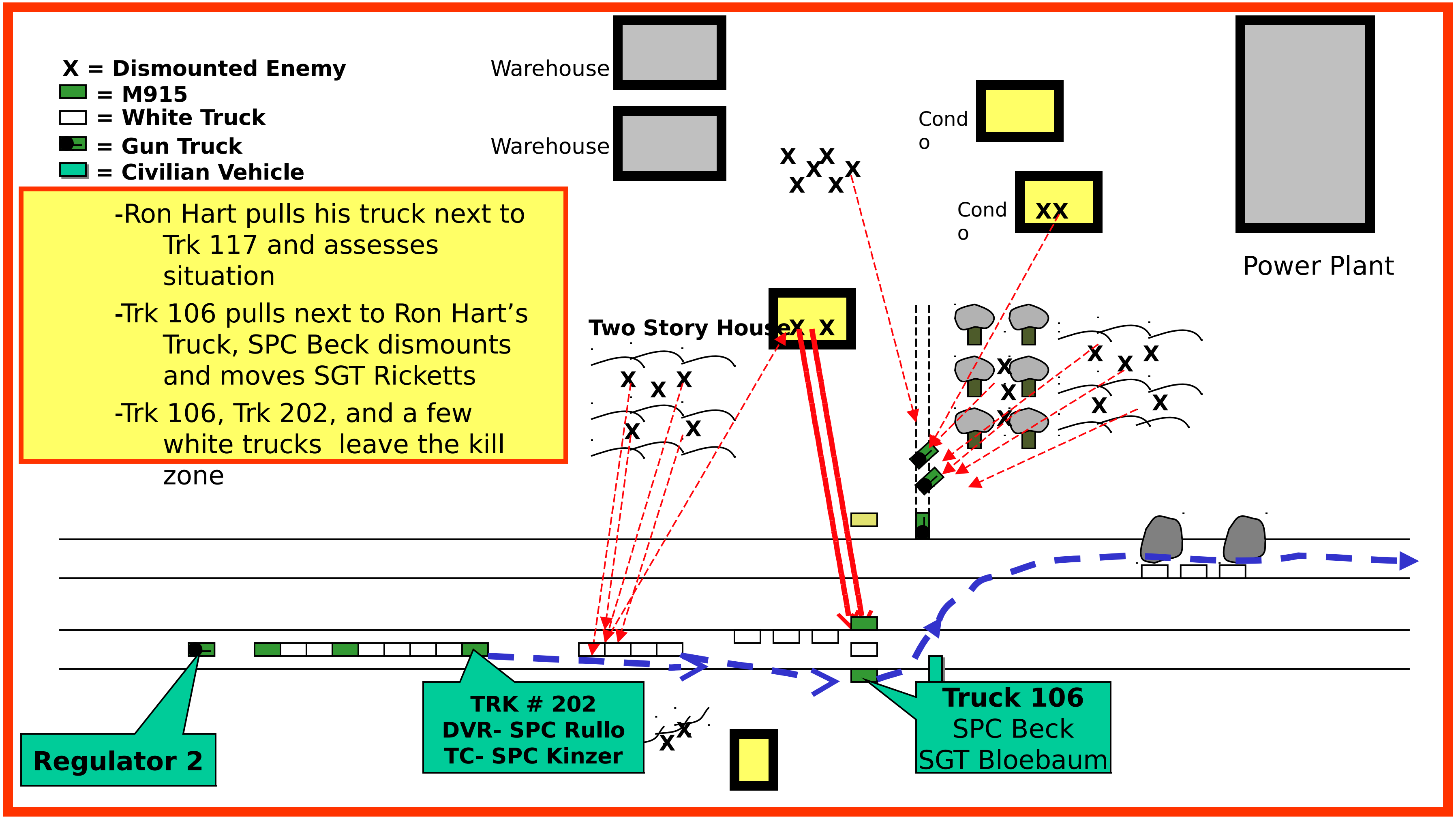
Regulator 2

Regulator 3

Truck 106
SPC Beck
SGT Bloebaum


A 063
A 063
SGT KENNEDY

Casualties moved


Warehouse
Warehouse
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Cond
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XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
X X
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X X X
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X X X
X X
X X X
X X
X X

X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle

-Ron Hart pulls his truck next to Trk 117 and assesses situation

-Trk 106 pulls next to Ron Hart’s Truck, SPC Beck dismounts and moves SGT Ricketts

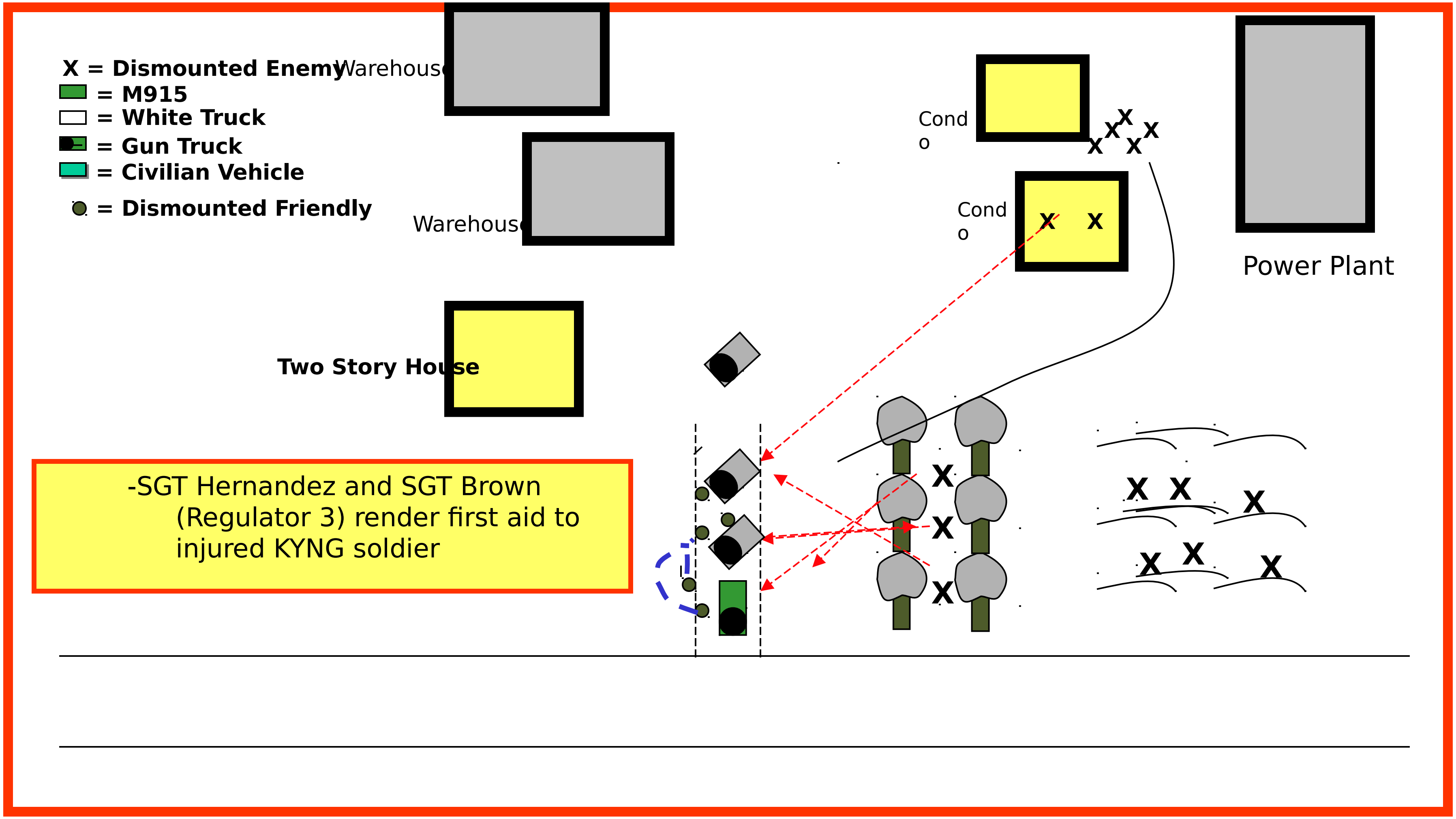
-Trk 106, Trk 202, and a few white trucks leave the kill zone

Regulator 2

TRK # 202
DVR- SPC Rullo
TC- SPC Kinzer

Truck 106
SPC Beck
SGT Bloebaum

KYNG Soldier recovery


X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
= Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle
● = Dismounted Friendly
Warehouse
Warehouse
Two Story House
Cond
o
Cond
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Power Plant
X
X
X
X
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X
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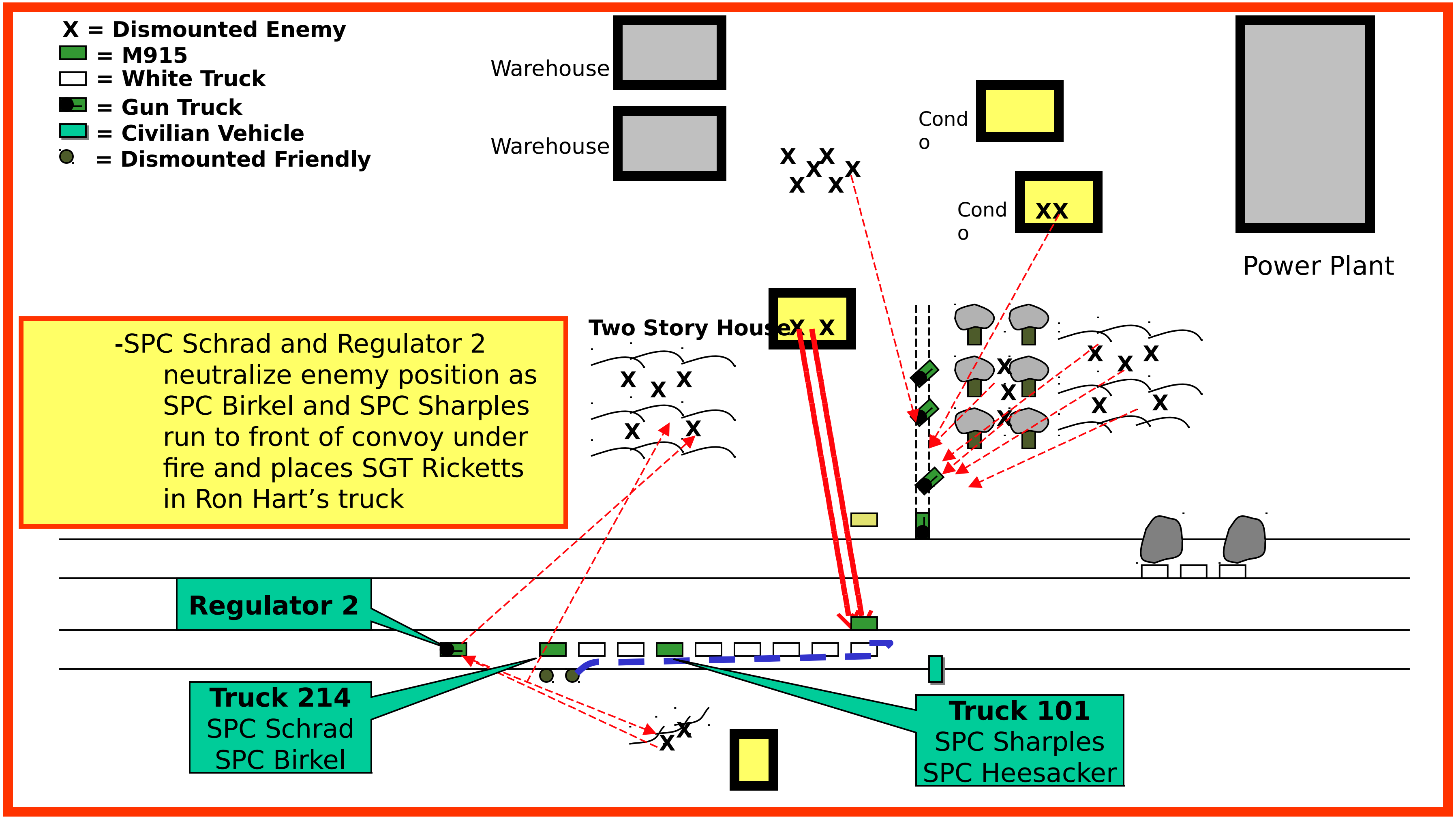
X

-SGT Hernandez and SGT Brown (Regulator 3) render first aid to injured KYNG soldier

Casualty Recovery


Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
o
Cond
o
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
X X
X X X X X X X
X X X
X X
X X X X X
X X
X X

X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
■ = Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle
● = Dismounted Friendly

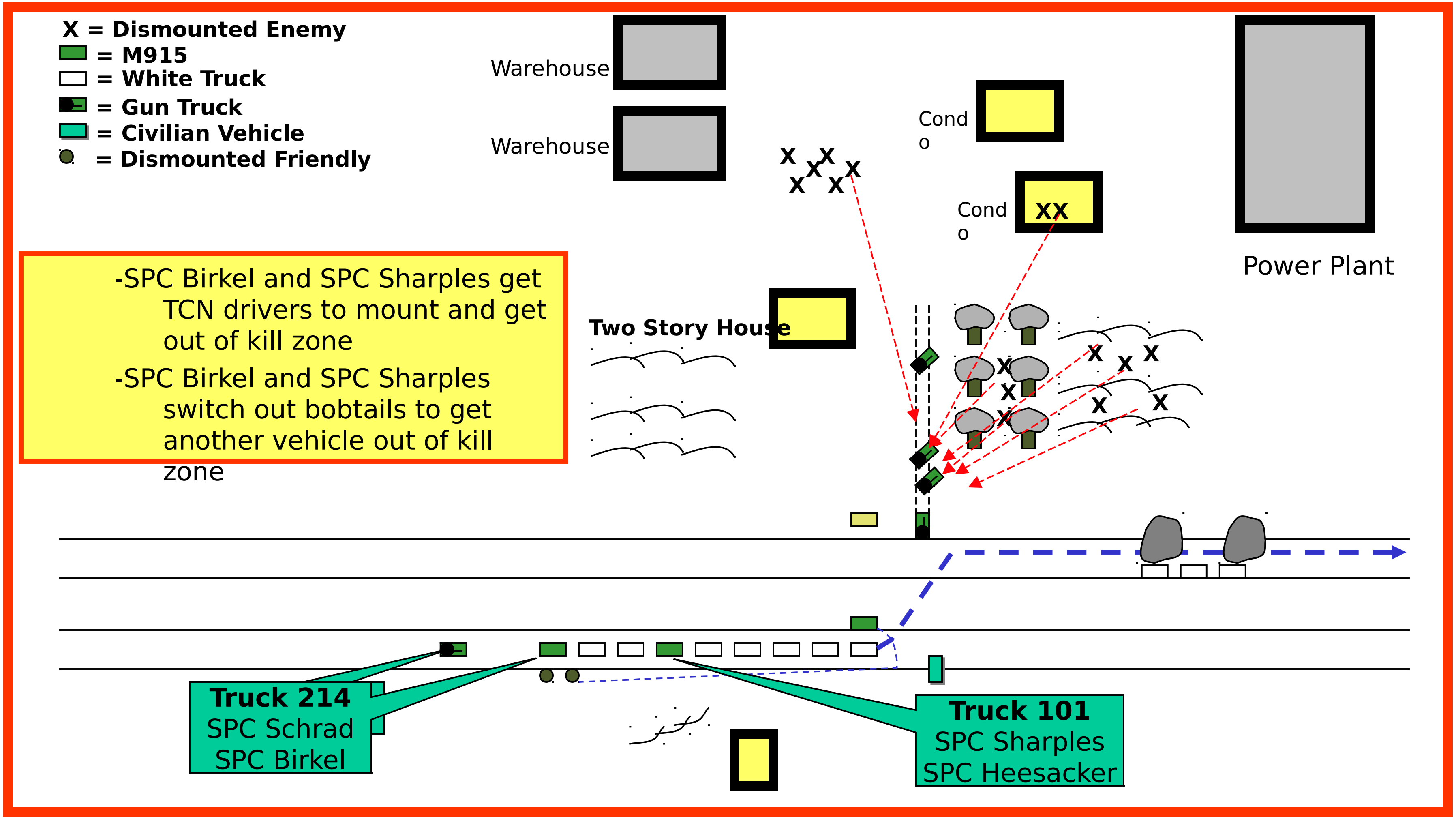
-SPC Schrad and Regulator 2 neutralize enemy position as SPC Birkel and SPC Sharples run to front of convoy under fire and places SGT Ricketts in Ron Hart's truck

Regulator 2

Truck 214
SPC Schrad
SPC Birkel

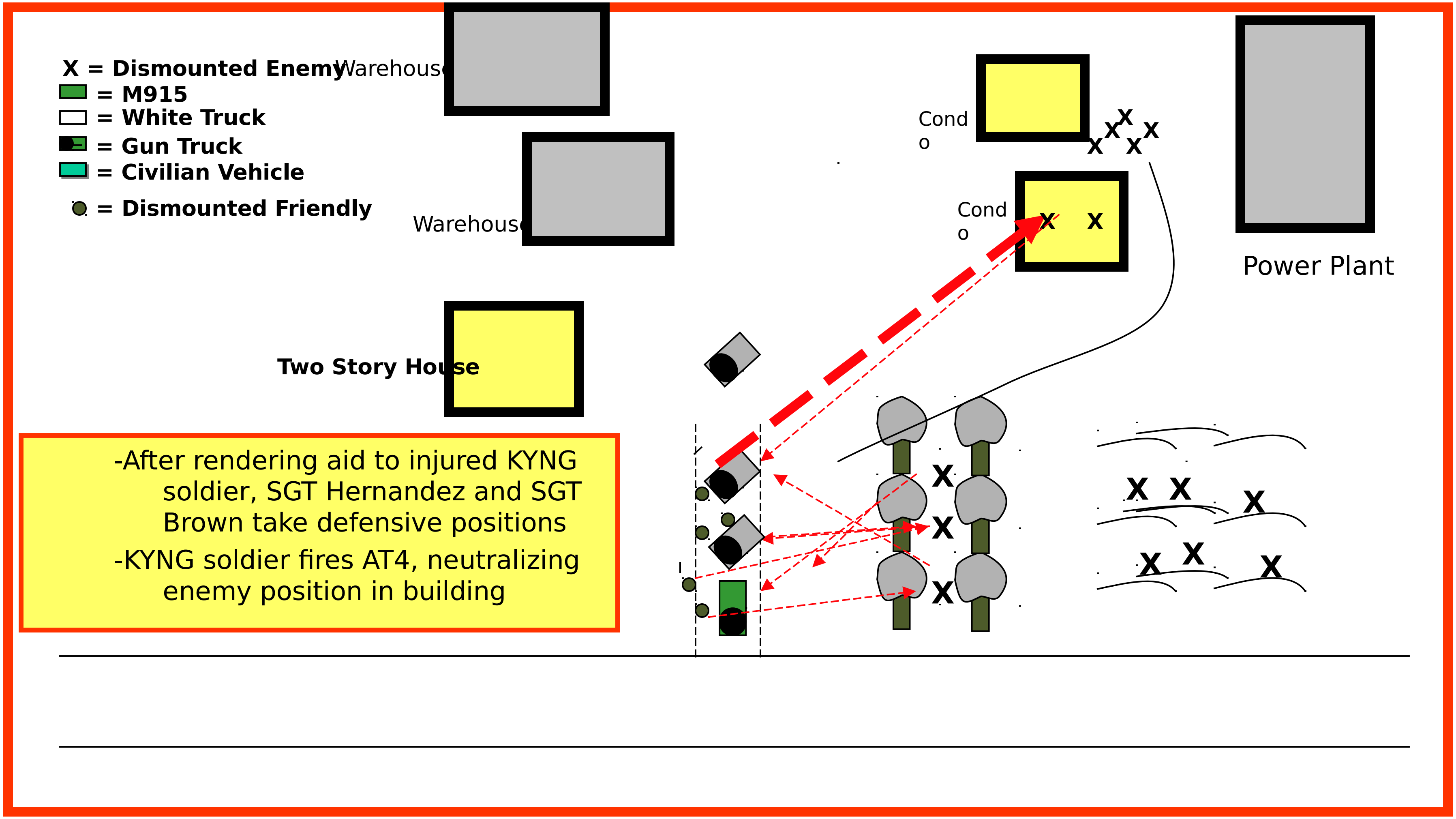
Truck 101
SPC Sharples
SPC Heesacker

Rest of Convoy Moves Out


X = Dismounted Enemy
🟩 = M915
☐ = White Truck
= Gun Truck
🟩 = Civilian Vehicle
● = Dismounted Friendly
Warehouse
Warehouse
Condo
Condo
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
Truck 214
SPC Schrad
SPC Birkel
Truck 101
SPC Sharples
SPC Heesacker

- -SPC Birkel and SPC Sharples get TCN drivers to mount and get out of kill zone
- -SPC Birkel and SPC Sharples switch out bobtails to get another vehicle out of kill zone

AT4 fired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Warehouse
Warehouse
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Power Plant
X
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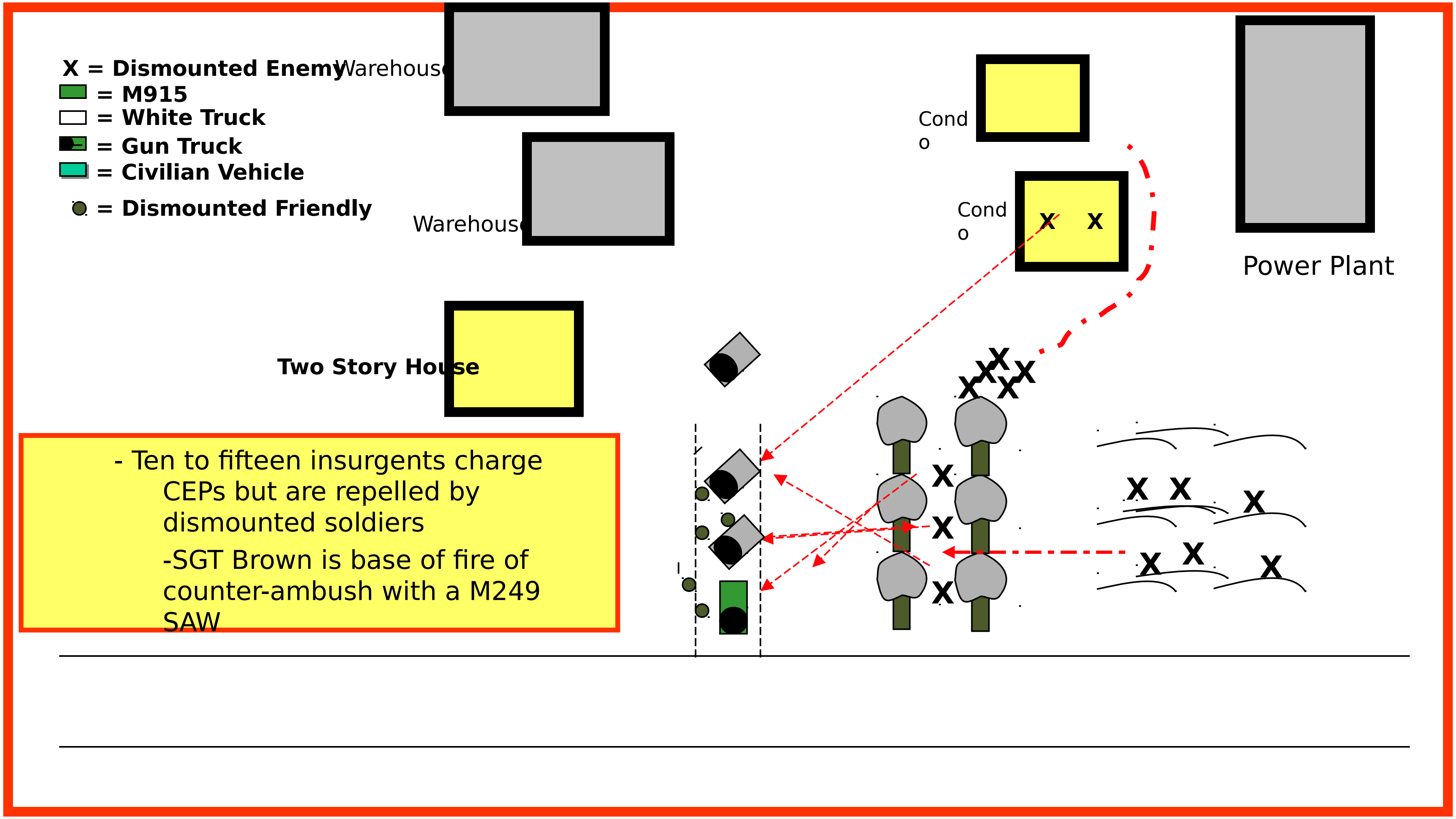
- -After rendering aid to injured KYNG soldier, SGT Hernandez and SGT Brown take defensive positions
- -KYNG soldier fires AT4, neutralizing enemy position in building

Ground Assault



X = Dismounted Enemy

🟩 **= M915**

☐ **= White Truck**

▣ **= Gun Truck**

🟩 **= Civilian Vehicle**

● **= Dismounted Friendly**

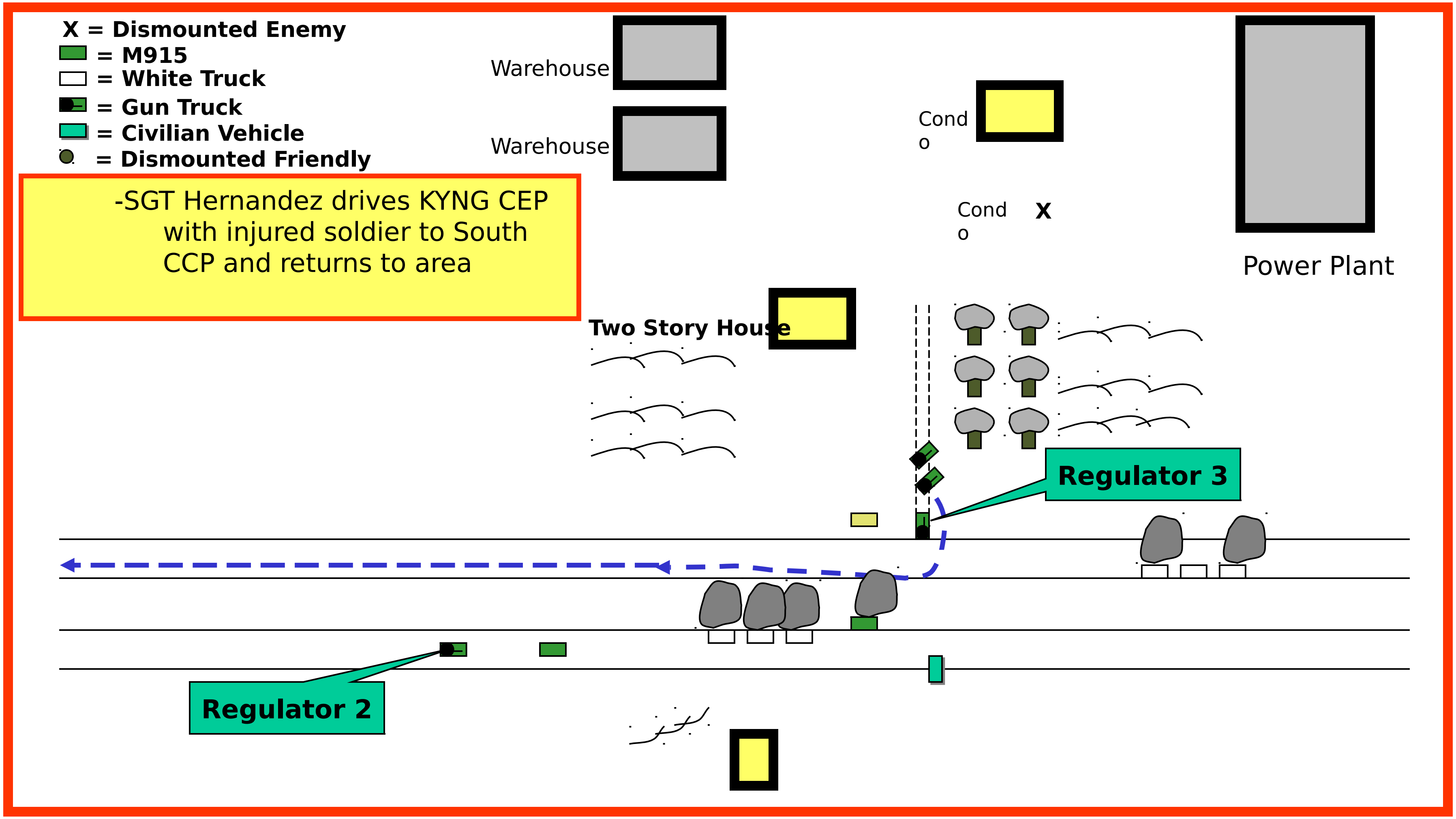
Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond o
Cond o
Power Plant
Two Story House
X

- Ten to fifteen insurgents charge CEPs but are repelled by dismounted soldiers

-SGT Brown is base of fire of counter-ambush with a M249 SAW

Captured Enemy Weapons

KYNG Soldier Evacuated



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-SGT Hernandez drives KYNG CEP with injured soldier to South CCP and returns to area

Warehouse
Warehouse
Cond
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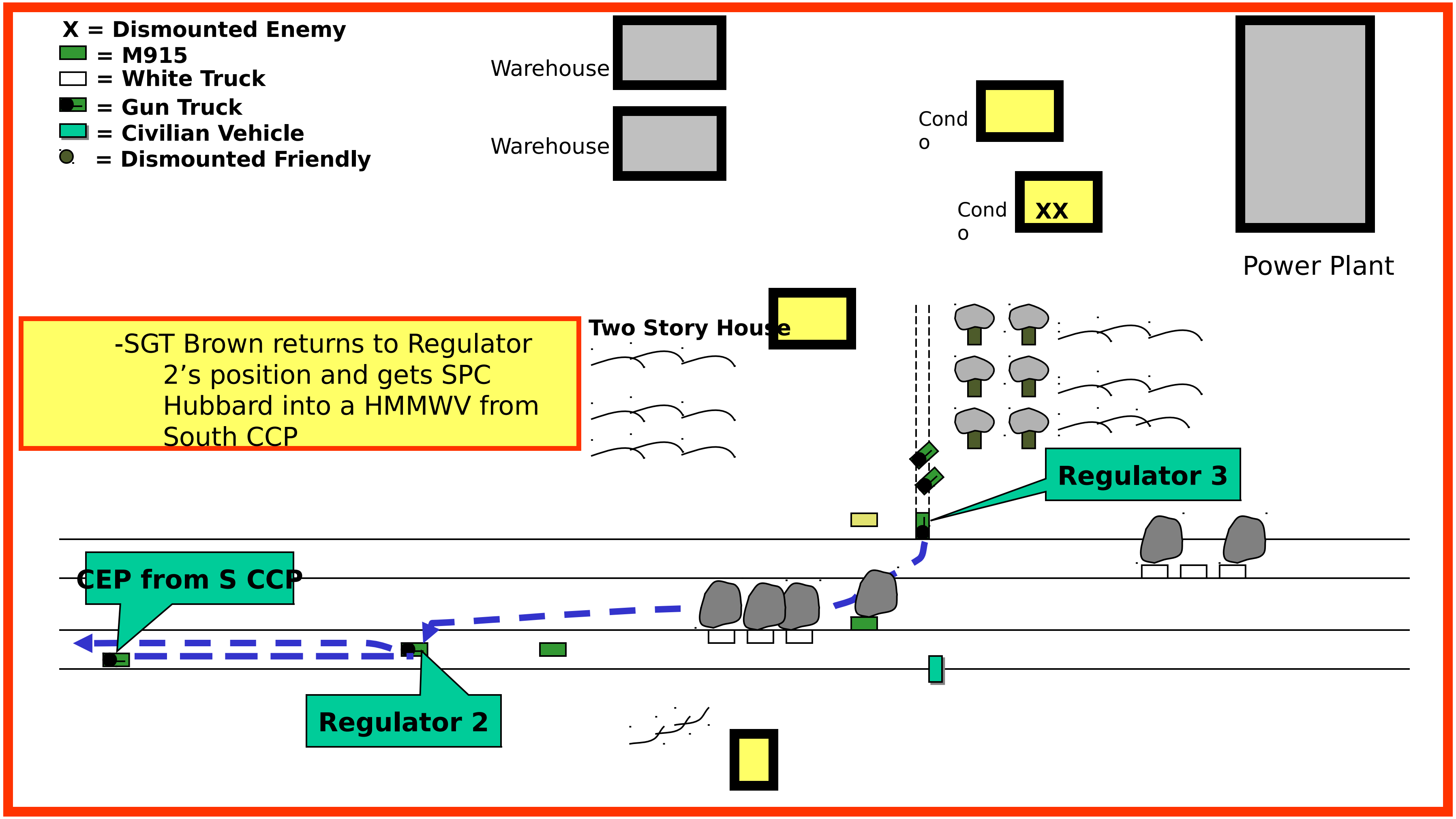
X
Power Plant
Two Story House
Regulator 3
Regulator 2

SPC Hubbard Evacuated



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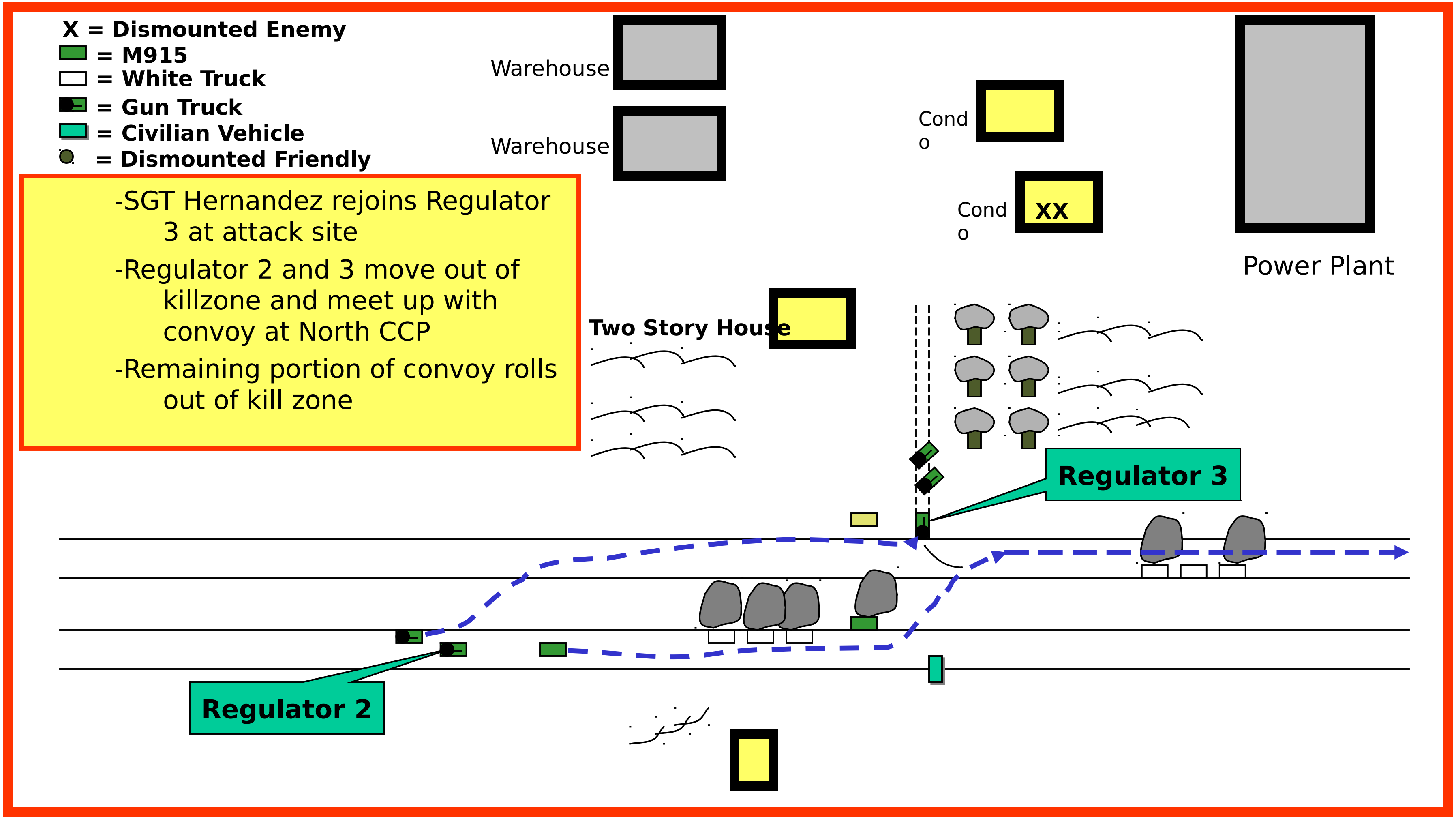
●🟩 = Gun Truck
🟦 = Civilian Vehicle
● = Dismounted Friendly

-SGT Brown returns to Regulator 2’s position and gets SPC Hubbard into a HMMWV from South CCP

Warehouse
Warehouse
Condo
Condo
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
Regulator 3
CEP from S CCP
Regulator 2

Consolidation and Reorganization



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🟦 = Civilian Vehicle
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- -SGT Hernandez rejoins Regulator 3 at attack site
- -Regulator 2 and 3 move out of killzone and meet up with convoy at North CCP
- -Remaining portion of convoy rolls out of kill zone

Warehouse
Warehouse
Condo
Condo
XX
Power Plant
Two Story House
Regulator 3
Regulator 2

Key Convoy Personnel

- SSG Uhl (Convoy Commander)
  - Lead convoy 2 miles out of kill zone and set up secure casualty collection point
- PFC Delancey
  - After being struck twice in the helmet by gun fire and RPG, provided suppressive fire in order to keep the gun fire off of his vehicle and his injured co-driver, inflicting 2-6 casualties on insurgents
- SPC Beck
  - Radioed to convoy commander advising him to stay out of kill zone, extracted SGT Ricketts from his truck, and pulled him to a covered position behind another truck while under fire
- SPC Birkel & SPC Sharples
  - Ran 300-400 meters to front of convoy while under fire to recover SGT Ricketts, lifted him into a white truck, got TCN and DoD drivers remounted and out of kill zone
- SGT Brown
  - Became base of fire with a M249 SAW against insurgent ground assault and developed plan to evacuate the wounded KYNG soldier
- SGT Hernandez
  - Applied first aid to wounded KYNG soldier, assisted in repelling the insurgent ground assault, and evacuated the wounded KYNG to the South CCP
- SPC Schrad
  - Provided suppressive fire along with the CEP positioned in the rear and neutralized enemy position, allowing for the recovery of SGT Ricketts

Lessons Learned

- Pre-convoy
  - Head space and timing of M2 .50 cals
  - Need to test fire weapons
  - War Game TTPs
  - Engage TCNs in the convoy brief
  - Gather intelligence on the enemy
- During convoy
  - Passive and active protection measures
  - Need for In-transit Visibility (ITV) – know who is in the area
  - Gather intelligence on the enemy
- During the ambush
  - METT-TC = clear the kill zone and get to the destination.
  - Proper use of radios
  - Lack of battle hand off between CC and ACC
  - Gun Trucks and convoy need to talk with each other

Questions?

7 GP
106 T
75T-204